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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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### AGAWAM YMCA

## We can still save the Y, board says

By Michael J. Ballway  
mballway@turley.com

The words "Greater Springfield" will come off the walls of the Agawam YMCA in May. The large "Y" logos may have to come down, too. But the doors don't need to close.

"There's some quick changes [possible] to make sure we can be successful in 2016," said Andrew Melendez at the Agawam Y Advisory Board this week. "This place is not going to be closed for one day."

Melendez, executive director of the Agawam YMCA Wellness

and Family Program Center, outlined a budget proposal to save the Y at an emergency meeting of the Advisory Board held Tuesday morning. The meeting was held one week after a similar meeting at which representatives of the Greater Springfield YMCA announced their plans to shut down the Agawam branch on May 31.

In his plan to keep the Y open, Melendez proposed allowing 24-hour access to the gym equip-

ment, for an optional monthly membership surcharge of \$25; revitalizing the café, which he said should be producing about \$20,000 in annual profit; and eliminating his own position as executive director. The Y could be run at a lower cost by a part-time site manager and a more active Advisory Board, he said.

His plan also involves an annual fundraising campaign of

*YMCA wasn't  
given a chance:  
Editorial, page 4*

YMCA | page 9



Members and local officials are trying to save the YMCA on Springfield Street, which is scheduled to close in May. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

### GRANGER SCHOOL

## Special dish

*Parents cherish a chance  
to share school lunch*

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

Enjoying a special pizza lunch at Granger Elementary School, second grader Haydden Ortiz was surprised last Thursday when he saw his mother in the cafeteria.

Holly Wernsing — a single mother raising both Haydden and his younger brother — was among more than 60 guests at a special family lunch with second graders on March 17. She called the event "fabulous."

Haydden wasn't expecting his mother because she had been sick and had forgotten to return her invitation. But after Wernsing called the school, she was added to the guest list at the last minute.

"It was wonderful to be with him. It means the world to me and to my kids when I come to school events," said Wernsing. She recalled that she was an Army brat who moved a lot during her school years, which "made it difficult for my parents to be involved in my school life. It's just so great to be part of my children's lives."

This is the first year Granger has hosted family lunch days, which were organized by grade level and held every Thursday in March. During the first week of March, fourth graders started the specially prepared lunches of pizza, salad and cookies with families.

Nearly 50 family members ate at the first two lunches. The St. Patrick's Day lunch was even more popular — more than 60 guests attended. The series is due to wrap up this week with kindergartners.

Bari Jarvis said she liked eating lunch with her son Casey on St. Patrick's Day. "We both dressed in green for the occasion. I'm glad they're doing it — it was fun."

Casey said while he preferred lunch with his friends, he still enjoyed being with his mother.

"I usually bring my lunch, so it was different," he said as he ate a slice of pizza.

When Jarvis walked into the cafeteria, the smells immediately transported her back to her time in school.



Above: Nicole Turgeon said she enjoyed seeing her son Caden during the school day when she and her husband Marc attended a family lunch with second graders at Granger Elementary School on March 17. TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

Right: Holly Wernsing said she cherished having lunch with her son Haydden recently at a special lunch with second graders at Granger Elementary School.



### WADE PARK

## Play area to be built

*CPA will fund  
'neighborhood park'  
at Feeding Hills field*

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The town is targeting Wade Park for major improvements this year so it can become a "neighborhood park" for local children.

Recreation Director Christopher Sparks said he is looking forward to providing a play area for the Springfield Street area, particularly the Agawam Housing Authority's nearby Brady Village and Wade Village, but emphasized that the project will benefit the entire town.

"It is a town-owned property and can be utilized by anyone once it is completed," said Sparks.

The Community Preservation Act has committed \$104,613 toward the project. The Housing Authority, whose residents will likely form a large proportion of the regular users of the park on Franklin Street in Feeding Hills, has donated about \$7,100.

Town procurement officer and CPA administrator Jennifer Bonfiglio and Sparks said the remaining funding will come from the Parks and Recreation budget, though the final amount will not be identified until construction bids come in. Sparks did say a gift account from Berkshire Power will be used to help pay for the improvements.

Improvements for Wade Park are part of a grander plan for the town. Sparks said improving Wade Park and having "neighborhood parks" in different parts of town are part of the five-year

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State Sen. Donald Humason, right, hosted a pancake breakfast at Pomeroy's Sugar House in Westfield on March 18. At the event, he and state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, left, presented Agawam City Councilor Richard Theroux with citations recognizing Theroux's 34 years of service as town clerk in Agawam, which ended in December. The annual event also featured an appearance by state Agriculture Commissioner John Lebeaux, as well as several state representatives and town officials from Humason's district. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

Agawam Advertiser News

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## Clarification

A story in the March 17 Agawam Advertiser News ("Charter School Cap Lift Opposed") failed to mention the sponsor of the Agawam School Committee's resolution opposing the expansion of charter schools in Massachusetts. The measure was sponsored and introduced by committee member Anthony Bonavita.

## Applications due next week to fill school board seat

Due to the sad passing of longtime School Committee member Roberta G. Doering, the City Council is accepting applications from Agawam residents interested in completing her term on the board.

Candidates should contact Barbara Bard in the council office at 413-726-9716, or [bbard@agawam.ma.us](mailto:bbard@agawam.ma.us), by the end of the business day on Friday, April 8. The appointee will join the School Committee immediately and serve until the next town election, November 2017.

The council offers its sincere condolences to Doering's family.

## Agawam Republican Town Committee restarts

After several years of inactivity, the Agawam Republican Town Committee is officially restarting its efforts on behalf of the GOP in Agawam. The committee's first meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at the Agawam Senior Center, 454 Main St.

The committee fielded a slate of candidates on the recent March 1 election ballot, including veteran Agawam Republican leaders Bob Magovern, George Bitzas and Ron LaRiviere.

"The GOP has always had a strong, positive presence in Agawam," said Magovern. "The GOP influence in Massachusetts and across the nation has been growing the past several years. It's time to restart the Agawam RTC and for Republicans to take an active role in town politics again."

The April 7 RTC reorganization meeting is open to all registered Agawam Republicans.

"We need to build the next generation of Republican leaders in Agawam," said LaRiviere. "This is the time and opportunity for the younger folks, 45 and under, to take a leadership role in GOP town politics. Working with the RTC provides a powerful way to have an impact on the future of Agawam."

For more information, contact Magovern at [Neighbor12@aol.com](mailto:Neighbor12@aol.com) or call 413-885-0430.



Bob Magovern



Rosemary Sandlin, right, a former Agawam School Committee member, presents Richard Stepanik with an award as Clark School Principal Shelley Russell, far left, looks on with Stepanik's wife Karrie and their son Cole. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

## Farmer wins state award for being school's 'garden angel'

Richard Stepanik of Feeding Hills was presented with a Friend of Public Education Award from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees at the Agawam School Committee's March 22 meeting.

Stepanik, a farmer, was nominated by the committee for the state award. It recognizes his ongoing efforts to ensure that the grounds of the James Clark Elementary School look their best year-round, especially at Christmas and Easter, when he puts up special holiday decorations.

Stepanik — whom Clark School Principal Shelley Russell called the school's "garden angel" — was the subject of December 2015 Agawam Advertiser News story about his volunteer work at the school. He has spent several years improving and maintaining landscaping near at the school as well as refurbishing and repainting several of its outdoor signs. The award was presented by Patricia Correia, a field director for MASC, and Rosemary Sandlin, a former Agawam School Committee member and a past president of MASC.



Richard Stepanik, the "garden angel" of Clark School, works on seasonal decorations outside the school in November 2015. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



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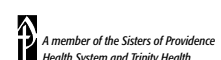
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# Opinion

OUR VIEW

## They didn't give this Y a chance

Maybe Agawam can't support a YMCA. Maybe there are too many private gyms, maybe the town is simply too small. And maybe the "Express Y" concept — a workout center with community and youth programs, but no swimming pool, no indoor track and no basketball or racket sport courts — just doesn't appeal to enough people.

Maybe. But we may never know for sure, because the Greater Springfield YMCA didn't give the Agawam Y a chance.

The Agawam YMCA Wellness and Family Program Center was still less than a year and a half old when its parent organization, the Springfield Y, announced last week that it would shut it down. Scott Berg, CEO of the Springfield Y, said the Agawam Y wasn't projected to reach profitability anytime in "the foreseeable future."

How could he know? It's only been 17 months. The YMCA was either irresponsible or shortsighted to open a new branch — indeed, a new kind of branch — without being prepared to subsidize it for at least a couple years while it found its niche in the community. It took a while for the Agawam Y to expand beyond fitness programs, but in the past couple months it's become part of the youth sports scene and sponsored events at the library. Building the brand doesn't happen overnight. It's disappointing to see them give up the effort so soon.

It's even more disappointing to note that 17 months of operations were really less than a year of real effort. The Springfield Y went more than half a year without a CEO in late 2015, and during that time the Agawam Y was left without an on-site executive director, as Andrew Melendez was reassigned to the Springfield headquarters to fill in for vacancies there. Advisory Board Chairman Joseph Mineo says for seven or eight months, there was no local leadership of the YMCA in Agawam. You can't ask a startup to succeed after leaving it leaderless for such a large portion of its existence.

At the end of 2015 — after more than half a year of neglect — the Agawam Y had 460 member households. Two months later, with the local executive director back on the job, it was up to 550. After rising nearly 100 members in just a couple months of active leadership, and with a target of 600 memberships by June and 750 to reach profitability, how is it possible that success looked "unforeseeable"?

That's an argument — among many — that local leaders would have made if they had the opportunity. In the end, though, the Springfield Y made this decision without any consultation from members, town officials or even its own Agawam YMCA Advisory Board. There was no warning, no ultimatum, just a fait accompli announcement that the Agawam Y would close. The Springfield Y wasn't interested in hearing about any membership drive or fundraising drive or price hikes or cost-cutting plan to save it. After investing more than \$440,000 in the Agawam operation over the past two years, Springfield decided to let it fail without even considering how to make it succeed.

It didn't really fail. It wasn't given a chance.

*What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).*



Andrew Melendez outlines proposed budget cuts to save the Agawam YMCA at a board meeting Tuesday. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



## Letter to the Editor

### A softball player's prayer for lights

As my daughter Danae and I were traveling back from a batting cage session last Saturday, we got talking about playing softball under the lights. Danae was thrilled to have had that opportunity last season in the New England Youth Sports Association at our home field, which is Greenleaf Park in Springfield. NEYSA hosts girls fast-pitch softball teams in the greater Springfield community.

Along with coaching, I am also on NEYSA's board of directors. At some of our meetings we spoke about this "Friday Night Lights" theme and how we might possibly give more of our young ladies this chance to play a night game. On our board are two ladies that do tremendous work for the Sacred Heart Athletic Association of Agawam. They would like for the young ladies on their teams to have more chances to play under the lights, too, but they need a little help to make this a reality.

So I asked my daughter what she would say if it were her field, and with a little help with the wordsmithing, she came up with this "prayer" that she believes would be what many a player may ask.

#### My Friday Night Lights Prayer

I want to look towards the night sky and see all that is bright,  
Yet there is something stopping me from seeing all those lights.  
You see I'm one of those young ladies who hopes and prays,  
That some day my diamond will shine brighter than the new day.

But please don't think I'm after all those material things,  
Because what I want doesn't come with any strings.  
I'm going for it all even if it means having

to steal,  
2nd, 3rd and even Home, cause I know I've got them wheels.

You know I could care less about makeup and being dressed all nice,  
I'd rather dive right into the dirt, to be more precise.  
And my prayer is that I can do this even at night,  
Because like so many other athletes, I long to play under those bright lights.

So I'm asking you, please help me to make my diamond shine,  
We have all the new bulbs and a wonderful man who will donate his time.  
He'll swap out those old ones with those new shiny ones so swift,  
All we need is for someone to give him a big lift.

— Thank You for helping to make my night sky so bright!

The Sacred Heart Athletic Association, a non-profit that provides youth sports activities including girls softball, needs a lift or bucket truck to replace lights at their playing fields in Feeding Hills. An electrician has donated his time and services but does not have access to equipment that is high enough to reach them. If you are a company that has this equipment and would allow it to be used for a day, SHAA would be very grateful. The new lights will be more energy efficient and will help provide safe playing fields. Please contact George at 413-384-2283. Thank you.

**Darrell Weldon**  
Belchertown

## FAITH MATTERS

### When love comes to town

More than the chocolate bunnies and colored eggs, more than the frilly dresses and new outfits, above family gatherings, food and chatter, even beyond religious gatherings, songs sung, words read, and kind platitudes spoken, we look seeking, peering expectantly, hopefully, for something more than meets the eye.

Taking pause in this broken world, marked by terror in Brussels, uncertain economics and contentious electioneering, we still our hearts in awe reflecting upon an event two millennia past. A little known itinerant evangelist on the edge of an empire met his fate on a Roman cross. This common and seemingly inconsequential event still hurtles across the span of his-

tory forever renewing lives throughout the Earth.

From the very beginning our creator, Father, Papa God spoke perfection into existence. A loving god declared his creation good. Knowing that brokenness and men's independence would mar earth, Papa purposed and prepared the way for man to be restored to right relationship with Himself. He made a grace-filled provision to thaw our wintry hearts.

That day on the back side of the empire, unbeknown to all, in the most unlikely of scenarios, love came to town. The path for reconciliation was cleared. Father now is available to every heart. Not



Bob Olmstead



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# Obituary

## Roberta G. Doering, 91

Roberta F. (Gere) Doering, 91, of River Road, died Sunday, March 20, in Baystate Medical Center, surrounded by her family.

Roberta was born in Syracuse, N.Y., to Robert Francis Gere and Mary Margaret Osterhout Gere, was a graduate of Cortland State University in New York, and has lived in Agawam for over 60 years. Roberta lived a life committed to promoting the interests of children, education, health and fitness, and the arts.

After graduating from college, she taught health and physical education in Cooperstown, N.Y., where she met her future husband, Dr. James A. Doering. Beginning with her work as a young woman running Girl Scout summer camps on Long Island and in Cooperstown, Roberta understood the benefits of the camp experience for children. Roberta worked at the Pine Knoll Swim School in Springfield from 1958 to 1992 as director of the Seven and Younger Field Program and as a swimming instructor. Her interest in recreation and fitness led to a life-long support of the Greater Springfield YMCA. Roberta's commitment to the YMCA's mission was first recognized in 1972, when she received its outstanding layperson award. Roberta served on the YMCA's board of directors for 20 years, chaired the Camp Norwich Resident Camp Committee for 10 years, and made history when elected its first woman board chair in 1979. In 1982, the YMCA recognized Roberta's extraordinary service by granting her its highest honor, the Red Triangle Award.

In 1969, Roberta expanded her focus to the children of Agawam. She was first elected to the Agawam

School Committee on Jan. 1, 1970, and served continuously on the committee until her death. She is the longest consecutively serving school committee member in the state of Massachusetts. In 2010, Agawam recognized Roberta's exceptional contributions by dedicating the Roberta G. Doering Middle School in her honor. Always a champion of public education, Roberta participated in state and national school board associations, serving as a member and past president of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (president, 1986) and National School Boards Association (president, 1995). Former Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy paid tribute to Roberta's accomplishments with remarks published in the Congressional Record on April 3, 1995.

Roberta's other interests were many and varied. She was a charter member of the Field Club in Longmeadow, a longtime member of the Lower Pioneer Valley Collaborative and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, served on the board of trustees of the Springfield Library and Museum Association, and served on the board of trustees of the Baystate Medical Center. Roberta had a love of nature and the outdoors, enjoyed hiking and camping in our national parks across the country, and spent many years with her husband and family at her second home near Lake Placid, N.Y. She enjoyed downhill skiing at Whiteface Mountain in New York and Mt. Tom in Holyoke, rode her bicycle around the streets of Agawam for decades, and more recently kept up her physical fitness with regular walks at the Holyoke

Mall and along Agawam's River Walk. She was also a strong supporter of the arts, enjoying performances from the Lake Placid Center for the Arts, the New York City Ballet, the Fine Arts Center at UMass, and the Majestic Theater.

Until her death, Roberta continued to embrace the world before her and find new interests in her life. Roberta's husband, Dr. Doering died in 2002. She leaves a sister, Nancy Ann (Gere) O'Neil of Oak Park, Ill.; many nieces and nephews, Andrea Drozda, Nancy Goodwin, Michael Powers and his wife Ellen, Patrick Powers and his wife Dawn, Carol O'Neil, Elaine O'Neil and her husband Andrew, Marilyn Marr and her husband Ray, Carolyn Phillips and her husband Lee, Peggy Lawson, Judy McGinty, and Alice Smith and her husband Fred; and generations of grand-nieces and -nephews. Besides her husband, Roberta was predeceased by two sisters, Jane (Gere) Powers and Mary Louise (Gere) Drozda; and a niece, Connie (Powers) Lister.

The funeral will be held at the West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home Friday, April 1, at 9 a.m., with liturgy in St. John the Evangelist Church, Agawam, at 10 a.m., followed by burial in the Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery. Visiting hours will be held Thursday 4 to 7 p.m. For more details, please visit [curranjones.com](http://curranjones.com).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Roberta's memory to the Roberta G. Doering Field Trip Fund, care of Agawam Public Schools, 1305 Springfield St., Suite 1, Feeding Hills, MA 01030; the YMCA of Greater Springfield, Development Office, 275 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01104; or to the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St., Springfield, MA 01103.



## DEATH NOTICES

### Doering, Roberta F. (Gere)

Died March 20  
Funeral April 1  
West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home

### Emerson, Rose H.

Died March 21  
Funeral March 26  
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

### Hays, James W.

Died March 24  
Funeral March 31  
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

### Lavallee, Sherrie C.

Died March 2  
Memorial service April 2  
Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield  
Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home  
West Springfield

Agawam Advertiser News

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$75, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## FAITH ■ from page 4

because of who we are, but because who He is and what He has done. He asks us simply to turn to Him, and to follow, trust, and come to know Him. He promises to reveal his love to us; he will come live with and within us, never leaving or forsaking, our constant friend. The way is Jesus — no dead man — but our resurrected Lord. On that first Sunday morning the cry was, "He's alive!" He lives still, and He makes all the difference.

This week will become crowded with work obligations, meal preparation, homework, emails, Facebook, shopping, TV and play. As each day begins, take time to fill up on the eternal; tune in, seek His will. As you follow, release Him in everything you do. Go. Tell. Celebrate. He's alive.

*Bob Olmstead is a senior elder at Lighthouse Christian Church on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills.*

## Wreath nonprofit leader to speak with Women's Club on April 19

The Agawam Junior Women's Club will meet Tuesday, April 19, at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. A social with refreshments will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 7 p.m. All are invited.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Mary Ann Detschler, who, with her group of volunteers, makes wreaths for Wreaths with a Reason in support of Operation Underground Railroad. OUR is a nonprofit organization with a mission to rescue children from human trafficking. For more information, visit [www.wreathswithareason.com](http://www.wreathswithareason.com).

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Junior Membership, of Massachusetts.

## 'Tea in the Garden' slated for April 30

The Agawam Congregational Church will host its 12th annual English tea and luncheon at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 30. "Ladies Tea in the Garden" will bring the garden inside and will consist of tea with sandwiches and desserts served by white-gloved waiters. The day's events will include door prizes, raffles, a hat contest and a jewelry sale.

Tickets, which are \$12 and \$5 for girls under 12, are available mornings in the church office at 745 Main St., Agawam, or by calling 413-786-7111.

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Welcome to Glenmeadow Learning, a series of lifelong learning opportunities.

## The Sturgeon Queens: A Film about a Family and its Lox Emporium

Wednesday, April 13, 1:30 p.m.

Glenmeadow

24 Tabor Crossing, Longmeadow, MA

A Jewish immigrant family has tended to Russ and Daughters, a Lower East Side lox emporium for four generations. This documentary features the original owners and prominent enthusiasts, including Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

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## COUNCIL CORNER

## ‘A great lady and a class act’

On behalf of the Agawam City Council, I felt it was more fitting to pay tribute to Roberta Doering instead of discussing council matters.

Elected to the School Committee on Jan. 1, 1970, Mrs. Doering served continuously, making her the longest-standing school committee member in the State of Massachusetts. With her knowledge and experience, her seat can never be filled and she will be missed by all. I personally am honored to have known her. Here are some thoughts by the other City Councilors:

“Roberta was a good friend of mine and a classy lady. She served our town well and was loved by everyone. She cared and worked hard for our children’s education. She will be remembered by all of us.” — George Bitzas

“I always admired Roberta’s energy and enthusiasm for the well-being of Agawam’s school system. She was an icon that will be missed in town.” — Cecilia Calabrese

“I served with Mrs. Doering on the School Committee for four years. I found her to be genuinely concerned about education. She was a good listener and contributed extensively to the group’s discussions. I never heard her raise her voice for her demeanor was always very professional. Simply put, she was a great lady and a class act.” — Paul Cavallo

“Roberta will be missed by the Agawam community, especially by all the children whose lives she made better by her contributions on the School Committee and other civic groups. She represented what is best about public service in America.” — Christopher Johnson

“I first knew Mrs. Doering as Dr. Doering’s wife, but as I grew, I realized that she was so much more. In high school I was a student representative to the Agawam School Committee, and she always impressed me with her knowledge and her willingness to talk to a kid like me. As a City Councilor, I appreciated firsthand her advocacy on behalf of our children. She was a true pioneer and example for women in politics, in Agawam and statewide.” — Gina Letellier

“I’ve known Roberta for over 20 years. She was a great advocate for the children of our town. She will be sadly missed by my

entire family, as well as by the entire school system.” — Joseph Mineo

“Agawam has lost a truly devoted School Committee member, a woman who devoted her entire life to be certain the children of Agawam received the very best education. Her tenure as longest serving School Committee member is unmatched and so richly deserved.” — Donald Rheault

“Please accept my condolences on the passing of Roberta Doering. It was an honor to have known such a great person and I will truly miss her.” — Anthony Suffriti

“Roberta was a lady that personified self-respect, class and etiquette — always gracious and always charming. She will always be well remembered for her

years of commitment and dedicated service to the community. Her record speaks for itself, but to me, and I am sure to many others, she will always be remembered as ‘the lady with the infectious smile.’ She will be greatly missed.” — Robert Rossi

“I remember Mrs. Doering very fondly. She told me a story when she was first elected to the all-male School Committee where at her first meeting, the men said they were very happy she was there because she could help the secretary make the coffee for all of them. Mrs. Doering simply replied ‘I’ll be glad to take my turn like everyone else.’ Every time a child enters the Roberta G. Doering School, she will always be remembered as she should be.” — Richard Theroux

“Mrs. Doering was a sweet woman who always took the time to ask about my three children and seemed truly interested in hearing about them. When my daughter passed away, Mrs. Doering was extremely supportive both in words and by attending several foundation events. I believe her genuine compassion made her the amazing public servant that she was. She has forever touched my heart.” — Barbara Bard, council administrative assistant

Rest in peace, Mrs. Roberta Doering — you will be truly missed by all of us on the City Council and in the council office.

*James Cichetti is president of the Agawam City Council.*



James Cichetti

## Local managers graduate from leadership course

SPRINGFIELD — Marlene Johnson of Agawam, and Bill Raimondi, who grew up in Feeding Hills, are among the 22 business professionals who will graduate from the Springfield Regional Chamber’s Leadership 2016 on April 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Springfield Sheraton. Sponsored by the MassMutual Financial Group with scholarship support from the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, the program is a unique collaboration between the Springfield Regional Chamber and Western New England University to teach thinking and problem-solving skills to middle- and upper-level managers.

This year’s sessions included “Each Person’s Behavior Makes Perfectly Good Sense to Them: We Are All Different,” which explored how individuals differ in the ways they learn, communicate, lead and follow;

and “Leadership Who Get Things Done: The Power of Influence,” which focused on influence skills such as reading other people and adapting the message so it will be better understood, understanding the six universal forms of influence and developing political savvy.

Since 1982, more than 900 area leaders have graduated from the Institute. Raimondi is with Baystate Health, and Johnson is with United Personnel, both located in Springfield.

Reservations for the graduation are \$40 per person and required in advance. Reservations may be made online at [www.springfieldregionalchamber.com](http://www.springfieldregionalchamber.com) or by contacting Kara Cavanaugh at 413-755-1310 or [cavanaugh@springfieldregionalchamber.com](mailto:cavanaugh@springfieldregionalchamber.com).

## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email [mballway@turley.com](mailto:mballway@turley.com).

## JAY SPEAKS

## Dancing with the (non-)Star

Everyone in my wife Kitty’s family has excellent dancing skills. Her dad used to partner the movie star Eleanor Powell. Our children received their dancing genes from their mother, thankfully, since there are none in my gene pool. The three sayings that come to mind about me are:

1. He has two left feet
2. He trips over his shoelaces, and
3. That guy ... he’s a total klutz

I have a long and stellar association with dance, nevertheless. I watch ballroom dancing on public TV. I also watch “Dancing with the Stars” regularly. I’ve seen movies featuring such icons as Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and Savion Glover. But let’s get to dancing and the real me.

When I was a child, my mother registered my two sisters in a dance class. The teacher told her that when two members of one family register, the third child is free. She also said, “Dancing is good for social graces; it’s wonderful exercise, and it keeps one from being a wallflower.” So I became a dancer — even though all my friends thought that was sissyish.

I think the dance instructor regretted her invitation. As the time for the annual recital approached, she took my mother aside and explained her plan. “Your son will hold up the maypole!” she said. “The dancers will attach their ribbons to it and circle him. He’ll be the non-dancing star.”

And so ended my youthful attempt at dancing.

Then came high school ... and the big swing bands, Glenn Miller, the Dorsey Brothers, Kay Kayser. Our home was close to Canobie Lake Park, where all the bands played. The dance floor was so crowded, there was no room to do more than slowly rock back and forth. Perfect! I just had to hold on.

Meanwhile, at school dances, everyone did the jitterbug — a dance where the girl does all the work. The boy just has to keep his arm extended. Even I looked good doing the jitterbug; after all, I had experience being a maypole!

Our synagogue youth organization also held dances. There the dancing was quite sedate. The lights were low and the music soft and sweet. I just had to hold the girl as tightly as possible.

I left high school before graduation to join the army. World War II was on. Each stateside military camp posted notices for Jewish personnel about dances at synagogues close to the bases. Again, the music was soft and sweet and the girls hung on tightly. After all, who knew if you were going to come back alive.

When the war ended, I went to college. It was the jazz era. A lot more listening than dancing. I didn’t even have to fake it. But then I graduated and moved to Boston’s Back Bay. Home was a fourth-floor walk-up. I had a job. I had income. I had a company car.

One of the places I parked my car was in front of an Arthur Murray dance studio. People inside seemed be having a good time. The sign out front announced: “Dancing leads to good social graces. Dancing is great exercise. Dancing prevents you from

being a wallflower.” Where had I heard those words before?

I signed up for lessons. Funny thing: my instructor kept changing. Everyone who tried said, “I can’t do anything with you. You’re too stiff. You’re not coordinated. You’re not trying.”

One day the manager said, “I’m voiding your contract. You’re bad for business. Please don’t come back. Please don’t tell anyone you took lessons here.” I had flunked Arthur Murray!

Somehow or other I fumbled through life without much more dancing until I met my wife. Shortly after our marriage, we were at dinner with friends when someone mentioned that they had signed up to learn Spanish dancing. Would we like to join them? Kitty thought it would be super. I mumbled something which everyone took for “Yes.”

The ordeal went on week after tortuous week. I went from being merely a bad Spanish dancer to being a disgrace to the Spanish empire. When I tried the limbo, I ripped my pants and scuffed my butt. My tango looked like a leaping emu. The cha cha was a football scrimmage. Kitty was patient. About all I took from the lessons was a passable rhumba — if you didn’t look too hard.

The years rolled by. We went to weddings, bar mitzvahs, and other social events. I danced with Kitty as best I could. Surprisingly, no one paid the least bit of attention. I did fairly well when the affair included Israeli dancing, which is loud and in a circle. You just follow the person in front of you and do whatever he does.

Last year, Kitty and I enrolled in an elder hostel course in New Mexico. Classes were mostly on a Navajo reservation. As part of one lecture, there was a demonstration of Navajo dancing.

The leader announced that the tribe urges their children to take up dancing because “It leads to good social graces, is wonderful exercise, and it keeps them from ending up wallflowers.” There was quite a bit of loud drumming and shouting as the dancers stepped around in a circle. Then, we Elder Hostellers were invited to participate.

“OK, everyone,” said the leader, “you’re going to tap your left foot three times, take two steps forward, two steps back, raise your right hand to your mouth and do the tribal shout: ‘Yo EE EE, Yo EE EE.’”

The drums were loud and rhythmic, I was dancing in a circle, and I was following the person in front of me. I had finally reached my element. This was just like Israeli dancing — and I was good at it!

When the elder hostel finished up, certificates and awards were given out. You know how it goes at this kind of an event: Everyone wins something?

Well, my award cited my dancing skills. I was the top left-footed Indian dancer. Finally, years of lessons, validated!

*This is a reprint of a column originally published in 2009. Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.*



Jay Berger

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

## 7 p.m. Monday, April 4, Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main St., Agawam

- A. Roll call
- B. Moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Citizen’s speak time
- D. Minutes

1. Regular council meeting — March 21, 2016
- E. Declaration from council president
- F. Presentation of Petitions and Resolutions

1. TR-2016-15- A Resolution to appropriate funds for Massachusetts Nurses Association (Mayor) (Referred to Finance Committee) (Tabled 3/21/16)

2. TR-2016-20- A Resolution confirming the reappointment of Frank Pignatere, 685 Suffield St., Agawam, to the Agawam Veterans’ Council to a term expiring April 1, 2019 (Mayor)

3. TR-2016-21- A Resolution confirming the appointment of Frank Mazzei, 476 Springfield St., Agawam, to the Agawam Veterans’ Council to a term expiring April 1, 2019 (Mayor)

G. Report of council committees

- H. Elections
- I. Public hearings
- J. Old business

1. TO-2016-7- Council transfer of \$1,500.00 from Council Professional Services (#11112-52190) to Travel/Training (#11112-52390 (Council) (Referred to Finance Committee)

2. TO-2016-8- Voucher \$2,587.87 (Council) (Referred to Finance Committee)

3. TO-2016-10- Order granting or renewing a permit for a Weekly Amusement for American Legion Post 185 Wilson-Thompson, 478 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)

4. TO-2016-11- Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device for American Legion Post 185 Wilson-Thompson, 478 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)

K. New business: Unavailable at press time.

L. Any other matter that may legally come before the City Council.

Adjournment



# Public Safety

## POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 295 calls for service from March 21 to March 27. The department recorded seven arrests in its public log. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

### Monday, March 21

Jill M. Fogg, 36, of 14 Bryant St., Springfield, was arrested on a default warrant for larceny over \$250.

### Wednesday, March 23

Sergio Juan Hernandez, 22, of 78 Paul Revere Drive, Feeding Hills, was arrested on charges of speeding and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

### Thursday, March 24

William R. Dearborn Jr., 47, of 74 Springfield St., Apt.

13, Agawam, was arrested on charges of operating a motor vehicle with license revoked as HTO and speeding in violation of special regulation.

### Saturday, March 26

A juvenile from Feeding Hills was arrested on two counts of breaking and entering a motor vehicle.  
A juvenile from Enfield, Conn., was arrested on two counts of breaking and entering a motor vehicle.

### Sunday, March 27

Michael McCaffrey, 53, of 75 Leyfred Terrace, Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding, and marked lanes violation.  
Alysha Marie Harvie, 32, of 29 Editha Ave., Agawam, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

## FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 56 EMS calls from March 22 to March 28, and the following emergency response calls.

On March 22 at 8:07 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On March 23 at 4:50 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On March 23 at 10:03 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street good intent call, other.

On March 24 at 2:29 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On March 24 at 11 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for lockout.

On March 25 at 6:21 p.m., the department re-

sponded to Katherine Drive for cooking fire, confined to container.

On March 25 at 11:05 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for forest, woods or wildland fire.

On March 26 at 8:58 p.m., the department responded to Pine Street for false alarm or false call, other.

On March 27 at 9:09 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street to assist invalid.

On March 27 at 10:56 a.m., the department responded to Walnut Street Ext. for lockout.

On March 27 at 5:52 p.m., the department responded to Barbara Lane for cooking fire, confined to container.

On March 28 at 12:42 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.



Mike and Rosann Ryczek, at the Maple Hut on River Road, chat with customer Ron Gaudette of Agawam, left, during Maple Weekend earlier this month in Massachusetts. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY PAUL BURDZIAKOWSKI

## Mild winter meant early maple harvest this year

By Paul Burdziakowski  
aan@turley.com

Ordinarily, late March would be prime maple sugaring season, but Mike and Rosann Ryczek at the Maple Hut are already done.

The Ryczeks, who started sugaring as a hobby but eventually built a sugarhouse on River Road as they acquired more and more equipment, said the mild winter pushed up their schedule this year.

“We projected an early sugaring season due to the El Nino weather patterns this year,” Mr. Ryczek said. “We started tapping our trees for sap collection on Jan. 30 and had our last sap boiling on March 12. Last

year, we had our first sap boiling on March 14.”

“This is the first year I can remember going out to collect sap in our sneakers,” added Mrs. Ryczek. “Having consistent 40 degree days and 20 degree nights is what drives sap to come out of the trees. It’s the warm nights that do you in, because if the temperatures are not at or below freezing, the sap stops dripping out.”

For the Ryczeks, a typical sugaring season lasts about six weeks and despite an inconsistent sap collection due to warm temperatures, they still came away with 80 gallons of maple syrup this year. This was close to average for the couple, as they collected 88 gallons last year.

## New firefighters



A swearing-in was held at the Agawam Fire Station on Thursday, March 24, for four new firefighters. Among those in attendance were Deputy Chief Bernard Calvi, Fire Chief Alan Sirois and Mayor Richard Cohen. Vincent Gioscia, town clerk, performed the swearing-in. The new firefighters are, from left, William Barker III, Darren Chenevert, Jeffrey Halper and Nicholas Demetrian. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## St. John’s Travelers announces 2016 trips

St. John’s Travelers has announced its schedule of upcoming trips. All trips include transportation departing from a destination in Agawam to be announced. For information and reservations, contact Emile Cote at 413-335-9440.

**Wednesday, June 29:** Long Island Lighthouse Cruise. \$109 per person. Morning cruise followed by early bird dinner at Go Fish Restaurant. Free time after dinner at Mystic Village.

**Tuesday, July 26:** Lobster Playhouse, Newport, R.I. \$98 per person. Matinee performance of “Unnecessary Farce.” Includes buffet lunch, one lobster, matinee show and cabaret.

**Tuesday, Aug. 16:** Odyssey Luncheon Cruise Boston Harbor. \$92 per person. Scenic 2 ½ hour tour around Boston Harbor on the Odyssey cruise ship. Includes luncheon served onboard and musical entertainment.

**Thursday, Sept. 22:** Italian Party with Vinnie Talarico at the Grand Oak Villa in Oakville, Conn. \$82 per person. Includes family-style luncheon, carafe of wine at each table.

**Friday-Monday, Sept. 30-Oct. 3:** Montreal and Vermont. \$729 per person, double occupancy. Includes two nights in

the St. Lawrence River Valley at the Holiday Inn, Centerville. Visit historic Old City, Notre Dame Basilica and panoramic view of the city from Mont Royal, underground shops, free time, one night in Stowe at the Commodores Lodge.

**Thursday, Oct. 13:** River Rose, Fall Foliage Cruise on the Hudson River in New York. \$90 per person. Includes lunch at River Grille and a two-hour cruise up the Hudson aboard an authentic Mississippi paddlewheel.

**Wednesday, Nov. 30:** Newport Playhouse, Newport, R.I. \$93 per person. Includes matinee performance of “Nana’s Naughty Knickers,” buffet lunch and afternoon cabaret.

**Thursday, Dec. 8:** Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra Christmas show at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn. \$84 per person. Includes family-style luncheon.

**Sunday-Tuesday, Dec. 11-13:** White Mountain Resort Hotel in Concord, N.H. \$439 per person, double occupancy. Includes welcome reception, two breakfasts and dinners, entertainment daily in the ballroom, 50 percent off coupon for the Tavern, scenic train ride, a stop at the Christmas Shop, North Conway Outlet shopping, baggage handling and taxes.

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LUNCH ■ from page 1

“I went to schools in Missouri, New York and Virginia, but it was still very familiar to me — I think all school cafeterias smell the same,” she said.

A big hit

Granger PTO volunteer Carrie Marino, who helped to organize the lunches, said the event has been a big hit with families. Family members pay \$3 per person to attend.

Marino said she got the idea from Robinson Park Elementary School, which hosts family lunches every fall.

“I had attended with my older children for many years, so I was familiar with how the lunches are organized,” she said.

When she suggested the lunches to Granger Principal Cheryl Salomao last December, Salomao agreed to start the new tradition at Granger.

“The lunches are a great idea. They offer families an opportunity to spend quality time with their children within our school setting,” she said.

Nicole Turgeon said she enjoyed seeing her son Caden with his friends during the school day.

“I love it,” said Turgeon as she squeezed into a seat at a cafeteria table next to her son and across from her husband Marc.

Childhood memories

Agawam natives, the Turgeons attended Robinson Park as children. Both said going through the lunch line at Granger brought back childhood memories.

“For me, it was the plastic utensils,” said Marc.

“The food trays and the lunch ladies,” added Nicole. One change she noticed from her school days: the milk choice. “We only

had white milk — now they have chocolate milk, too.”

Caden said he liked seeing his parents in the middle of the school day: “It was pretty cool to have them here.”

Anthony Park grew up in England, but his experience in a school cafeteria — or a “canteen,” as it’s called there — was similar.

“It’s been 35 years for me, but it’s still pretty much the same — except a lot quieter than I remember,” Park said. “I was surprised that with so many kids it was so calm and there was no chaos.”

The opportunity to have lunch with his daughter Emily was “awesome.” Park said it was a pleasure for him and his wife Deborah to share a school experience with Emily: “We got to see what she eats for lunch, plus it was a nice break from work.”

As for Emily, she said, “I liked having lunch with my mom and dad. We had a nice time.”

Important school routine

Marino said the lunches give parents time to interact with their children during the school day.

“As a parent, it’s important to show interest in not only your children’s education, but also in their everyday routine at school,” which includes lunchtime, she said. She added that sharing a meal is “a comfortable and relaxed way for parents and their children to relate and show that even the little things they do every day matters.”

Wernsing — who planned to be back this week for the kindergarten lunch with her son Heath — cherished her “special moment” with Haydden.

“These little moments go by so fast, so I try to make as many memories with my sons as often as I can,” she said.



Emily Park, shown with her mother Deborah, said she had “a nice time” having lunch with her mom and dad. TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Irene Grimaldi, left, cafeteria manager at the Granger Elementary School, and server Ann Marie Meade serve lunches to families at a special family lunch day in March.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Listen again

7. Expressed sentiments

13. Membrane

14. Pelvic areas

16. Blood type

17. Vacated

19. Fullback

20. Nissan’s tiny car

22. Be able to

23. Outcast

25. Day laborer

26. Greek prophethess

28. Soluble ribonucleic acid

29. Sirius Satellite Radio

30. Actor Josh

31. A way to clean

33. Left

34. Compensated

36. Member of U.S. Navy

38. Reject

40. Group of notes sounded together

41. Christian holiday

43. European river

44. Female hip hop group

45. Score

47. Moved fast

48. Chronicles (abbr. Biblical)

51. Type of tie

53. Indicates silence

55. Asian people

56. Pearl Jam bassist

57. Jeff

58. Western U.S. time zone

59. “Signs” rockers

60. Confidential informant

61. Lawyer

64. Overdose

65. Football equipment

67. Governments

69. Branch of physics

70. Makes happy

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Typographical space

3. Sportscaster Chick

4. Italian Island

5. Cooked in a specific style

6. Smelling or tasting unpleasant

7. Name

8. Adult male humans

9. Pitcher Hershiser

10. Pat Conroy novel

11. “The Prince of \_”

12. Protects the goal

13. Furnishings

15. Scraped

18. Apply with quick strokes

21. Blood cell

24. Nose

26. Doleful

27. \_ Angeles

30. Fruit tree

32. Smooth brown

35. Works produced by skill and imagination

37. Satisfaction

38. Reversal

39. Tan-colored horse

42. Tell on

43. Pitcher Latos

46. Fast-flowing part of river

47. Hang ‘em up

49. Rings

50. Lead from one place to another

52. Beginning

54. Reciprocal of a sine

55. Worth

57. Indian hat

59. Cloak

62. Resinous secretion of insects

63. \_ Aviv, Israel

66. European Parliament

68. Of I

Answers on page 23

Free photography workshop at library

Springfield Photographic Society will hold its fourth annual photography workshop at the Agawam Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23. This is a free conference and is open to the public.

This event is designed for photographers of all levels who want to learn more about photography or share what they know with others. The day will include several presentations by top photographers, but there will also be time to work in small groups, giving all a chance to explore the features of their cameras. There will be an emphasis throughout the day on how to do things, as well as an atmosphere encouraging everyone to ask any question that they have.

Topics will include travel photography, cameras and computers, street photography, post processing tips, and macro photography. Participants should bring their

own lunches to enjoy during an extended lunch break that will give everyone time to talk with one another.

Participants should bring their cameras, lenses, flash and camera manuals. For the hands-on session on post processing, people are encouraged to bring some of their own images on a flash drive, and each person is welcome to bring his or her own laptop to learn more about how to use software they already have. There will be ample time during the day to ask questions and to share knowledge with others.

The goal of the day is to have fun with photo colleagues. Springfield Photographic Society welcomes new members; conference participants can learn more about the organization at this event.

Those planning to attend the event should email Kevin Fay at fay44@comcast.net. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

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ST. JUDE’S NOVENA

May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now, and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude for granting my petition.

P.L.M.



**YMCA ■ from page 1**

\$20,000, though he hopes to raise twice that much this year to build up a “stimulus fund” for the transition to independent operations. He also hopes to renegotiate the Y’s lease on the former Food Mart site, reducing the monthly cost from \$5,500.

The plan also assumes that the Springfield Y will leave the Agawam Y’s equipment and furniture in place when it shuts down in May. Melendez said he is not concerned about the exercise equipment, as it is leased on a monthly basis, and the new Agawam operation could simply pick up the lease.

Melendez said his projections are based on conservative revenue estimates but yield a \$22,000 annual profit. His plan is based on a membership roster of 600 households — not much more than the 550 current household memberships.

One way that the Y should save money, at least in its first years, is to affiliate with a larger nonprofit organization, which would save on administrative and insurance costs. That could mean staying within the YMCA family.

The Greater Westfield YMCA, as the only other Y based in a neighboring town, is a logical choice, Melendez said. Joseph Mineo, chairman of the Advisory Board, said Agawam has not yet reached out to the Westfield Y.

Christopher Sparks, the town’s parks and recreation director, said keeping the “Y” name could be difficult. The paperwork and negotiations involved could last more than two months, he said.

“There are specific geographic regions set by the [national] YMCA,” Sparks said, and Agawam currently falls in the Greater Springfield region. “It’s not just a simple matter of ‘Westfield, do you want to adopt us.’”

It would be even harder to obtain a charter from the national organization as a standalone YMCA, added Mineo.

Even if Agawam takes the name “YMCA” off the building entirely, Melendez said, it should find a new partner. Melendez said he has been in talks with a “very successful nonprofit” based in the Pioneer Valley that would be willing to sponsor the Agawam branch as a community center, and even pay rent to host some social services programs there. Because negotiations are in their preliminary stages, he declined to name the nonprofit.

Melendez said operations at the Agawam Y could continue as normal under a new sponsorship agreement — it just wouldn’t be called “the Y.”

“Everything would feel the same,” he said. “It’s just about the name.”

After the meeting, Melendez said he crafted his proposals after the Springfield Y had made its decision to close the Agawam operation. The leadership in Springfield did not ask for any suggestions on how to save Agawam before deciding to close it, Melendez said.

The board did discuss one idea that had been proposed by Scott Berg, the CEO of the Springfield Y, back in February: Chang-

**What you can do to help**

Waiting around for the Advisory Board to crunch the numbers and decide on a course of action may frustrating and maddening, said Maureen Cayer, who is executive director of the Agawam Housing Authority and a board member at the Agawam Y. But the hard work of fundraising and publicity will have to wait until the board can decide on a plan.

The Agawam Y can’t even take monetary donations until after May 31, noted board Chairman Joseph Mineo: “Right now, anything that comes in has got to go to the Greater Springfield Y.”

What Agawam residents interested in saving the Y can do, according to Executive Director Andrew Melendez, is to join. The more members the Y has, the easier it will be for the organization to survive on its own. Those who are curious about the Y should stop in for a free one-month tryout membership. Existing members should bring friends along to try it out.

Although the CEO of the Springfield Y said last week that no new memberships will be taken at the Agawam location, Melendez said this week that no new member will be turned away.

“I want as many people as possible to experience the Y,” Melendez said on Tuesday.

Basic memberships are \$30 for an adult, \$50 for a family. Discounts are available for seniors, veterans and young adults, and some employers and clubs, such as AAA, offer further discounts.

Memberships are charged on a monthly basis.

ing the name of the facility to “West of the River,” rather than “Agawam,” as part of an effort to broaden its appeal to West Springfield, Southwick and Suffield residents.

Local officials said last week they were “blindsided” by the announcement. The YMCA’s CEO said the Agawam branch, which was founded in October 2014, had not yet made a profit or met its membership target. Still, the news came as a surprise.

“We knew the Springfield Y was in trouble, but they never mentioned closing the Agawam YMCA,” said Mayor Richard Cohen at this week’s meeting.

As the shock wore off, Y members and other Agawam residents called Cohen’s office and took to social media to brainstorm ways to keep the fitness and community center open, resulting in the Advisory Board calling a meeting at the Y on March 29. Unlike past meetings of the Advisory Board, no representatives of the Springfield Y — other than Agawam Y employees like Melendez — were present at this week’s meeting.



**More than three dozen onlookers joined the Agawam YMCA Advisory Board on Tuesday morning to discuss the fitness and community center’s future.** TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



**The Parks and Recreation Department plans to build a playground and make other improvements at Wade Park on Franklin Street in Feeding Hills. In the background are the Brady Village Apartments.** TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

**PARK ■ from page 1**

Open Space Plan adopted by the town.

“Wade will not be what is known as a ‘destination park’ like School Street,” said Sparks. “But our goal is to establish more neighborhood parks throughout the town.”

He said Wade Park currently consists of a lot of open space and an antiquated basketball court.

A larger basketball court and a playground with a rubber surface are the main improvements being made. Sparks also said the parking lot at the park will be paved.

The playground will have play structures for children ages two and up.

Sparks said he is not sure when the construction of the park will begin because of the bidding process and the timing of the parking lot paving. He did say he was hoping the project will be complete sometime this summer and children can begin using it this year.

Bids are being solicited for installation of the playground equipment only. The equipment itself does not need to be bid, as it will be purchased from a state-approved vendor. The paving will be done through the town’s paving contract with Palmer Paving, Bonfiglio said.

“It’s not usually the way projects are bid out,” said Bonfiglio. “But we found it is cheaper for the town to purchase the

equipment through the state contract and only have to bid out the installation.”

Those numbers are not yet clear as the bids are due by April 7.

The CPA funding was approved by the Agawam City Council last month.

**Borgatti Field**

There are no other parks scheduled for major improvements this year. Improvements are also being made at Borgatti Field, with pickleball courts under construction. The second phase of School Street Park was completed last year.

**Why ‘Wade’?**

From the dedication plaque at Wade Park: “In honor of Benjamin Franklin Wade, born October 27, 1800, in Feeding Hills. President pro tempore of the United States Senate. Died March 2, 1878, in Jefferson, Ohio.”

Wade, who lived most of his adult life in Northeast Ohio, was a Radical Republican who, as leader of the Senate, became first in the line of succession after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Had President Andrew Johnson been convicted in his impeachment trial, Wade would have been president.

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**Stefanie D. Aquilina, DMD**  
*“Dr. Stefanie”*

**Spotlight on Sealants!**

You may have heard of dental sealants before, but you might still be wondering what they are or how they work. Sealants are often recommended for children once their permanent molars (the back teeth) begin to grow into the mouth at around age 6. Scientific research has proven over and over again that sealants are an effective way to PREVENT cavities from forming. Sealants are made of a white dental bonding material and they work by filling in the grooves on the chewing surfaces of the teeth. By filling in these grooves, sealants “seal out” food and plaque from getting lodged in these areas and causing tooth decay. Sealants generally last several years and the cost of sealants is very low compared to having cavities fixed. Furthermore, applying sealants is a quick and easy procedure. Ask your dentist if sealants may be beneficial for your child’s teeth!

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# Youth

## Dancers support heart health



“Dance for Heart” is an annual event for the Mary Ann Studio of Dance. For more than 40 years, the Mary Ann dancers have collected donations in support of the American Heart Association. The dancers are rewarded with the opportunity to put on a performance for the community at Eastfield Mall in Springfield. This year, the event took place Saturday, March 12. Marcy Ann Studio of Dance has locations in Agawam, Springfield and Wilbraham. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## School Lunch

### AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

- Monday, April 4:** Mozzarella sticks with dipping sauce, garlic bread, tossed salad, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Tuesday, April 5:** Texas toast grilled cheese, tomato soup, gold fish crackers, carrot sticks with dip, strawberry cup, fresh fruit.
- Wednesday, April 6:** Chicken filet wrap with assorted sauce, lettuce, tomato and cheese, side of pasta salad, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Thursday, April 7:** Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Friday, April 8:** Meatball grinder, mozzarella cheese, seasoned vegetable, French fries, fresh and chilled fruit.

- AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL**  
**AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**
- Monday, April 4:** Chicken tenders with dipping sauce, Tater Tots, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Tuesday, April 5:** Chicken Caesar salad wrap, pasta salad, Italian ice, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Wednesday, April 6:** Baked macaroni and cheese, celery sticks with dip, fresh and chilled fruit,

- cookie.
- Thursday, April 7:** Steak and cheese sub, peppers and onions, three-bean salad, fresh and chilled fruit.
- Friday, April 8:** Mini cheese calzones (Junior High), pizza (Doering and elementary), salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

### AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST MENU ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

- Monday, April 4:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
- Tuesday, April 5:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted nutri-grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
- Wednesday, April 6:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
- Thursday, April 7:** Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
- Friday, April 8:** Pillsbury mini pancakes with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, juice.

## Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

### College acceptances

Michael Baboza-McLean — Fitchburg State University, University of Hartford, Wentworth Institute of Technology; Jenna Bonasoni — Bentley University; Kayla Casamento — Northeastern University; Daphne Gauthier — Mount Holyoke College; Angela Gnall — Emmanuel College, Roger Williams University; Hannah Kresock — Boston College, George Washington University, Providence College; Ethan Laudato — Rhode Island College; Cassidy Milliken — Baruch College, Hunter College, Emerson College, Fairfield University, Northeastern University; Joe Moccio — Bentley University; Christopher Newton — Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences, Springfield College; Natalie Rauh — Bryant University; Lydia Roccio — Fitchburg State University, Westfield State University; Paul Rivera — Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Camille Williams — St. John’s University.

### Special Interest Programs:

The Springfield National College Fair, held at the Eastern States Exposition (Big E fairgrounds), is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. and Monday, April 4, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Please take advantage of college admission representatives being in our own back yard. In order to make the best use of their time at the fair, students should register ahead of time to be issued a barcode that will be scanned by the admissions representatives. Visit [gotomyncf.com/Registration](http://gotomyncf.com/Registration) and click on the orange “Register Now” button.

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences is offering a free three-day Public Health Immersion program Aug. 15-17. Students will discover how public health professionals tackle the most pressing health challenges of today while working to anticipate and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. Applications are due by June 1 and are available at admission. [mcphs.edu/SummerImmersion](http://mcphs.edu/SummerImmersion).

### Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: Mark Bavis Leadership Foundation; Dunkin’ Donuts Scholarship Program; The Holyoke Community College Foundation; The Professional Women in Construction – Connecticut Chapter; Springfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Matthews Massachusetts Memorial Fund; Janice M. Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund; Westfield River Valley Detachment; The Pascal A. Deliso Scholarship; Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts; Valley Press Club; Edward P. Boland Scholarship; American College Foundation; Dolly Lancaster Scholarship; Massachusetts Broadcasters Association Student Broadcaster Scholarship; Jewish Endowment Fund; Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts; Pioneer Valley Women’s Running Club; Warrior Thunder Foundation; 2016 Student View Scholarship Program; Holyoke Credit Union Scholarship Program; Hood Milk Sportsmanship Scholarship; Red Pine Scholarship; Yawkey Scholars Program; The Phillips Scholarship Fund; The Michael Yasick ADHD Scholarship by Shire; Big Y Scholarship; John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Skidmore College Filene Music Scholarship Competition; Westfield-West Springfield Elks Lodge 1481; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants; Jack Kent Cooke Foundation; American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship; The Henry David Thoreau Foundation; Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Nurse Scholarship; Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement.

Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country.

Did You Know: The largest nonprofit private university is New York University with more than 54,000 students.

## CAMPUS NOTES

**Emmanuel College:** Tyler Billick, of Feeding Hills, participated in the college’s annual Alternative Spring Break trip to Phoenix, Ariz., weeklong service trip held during spring break that bridges volunteer work with education and reflection on larger social issues.

**Salve Regina University:** Ann Mozzier, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean’s list.

**University of New Haven:** Alyssa Berthiaume, of Feeding Hills, graduated at ceremonies held Jan. 16.

**Western New England University:** Alvaro Santamaria, Samantha Peetros and Maura Curran, of Agawam; and Joseph Rosinski, Khalid Shehemi, Megan Alaimo and Lindsey Westlund, of Feeding Hills, graduated at ceremonies held Feb. 15.

# Legals

## LEGAL NOTICE FEEDING HILLS SELF STORAGE, INC. SELF STORAGE FACILITY AUCTION SALE

Self Storage Facility Operator’s Sale for non payment of Storage Charges pursuant to the power of sale contained in M.G.L. Chapter 105A, Section 4.

The following property will be sold at Public Auction at **9:01 A.M. on April 14, 2016**, on the premises of Feeding Hills Self Storage, Inc., 371 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

All household goods, tools, furniture, and miscelany held for Tricia St. Pierre, Unit 414.

Sale per order of Feeding Hills Self Storage. Tel: 413-786-0009. Terms: Cash. Unit sold by entirety. Sale is sub-

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**Commonwealth of  
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Family Court  
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(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD16P0533EA  
Estate of:  
Madonna E McKinley  
Also known as:  
Madonna McKinley  
Date of Death: 02/15/2016  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Probate**

**of Will with Appointment  
of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Donna Nicholson** of Manchester NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Donna Nicholson** of Manchester NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To

**Please check  
the accuracy of  
your legal notice  
prior to submission (i.e., date,  
time, spelling).  
Also, be sure  
the requested  
publication date  
coincides with  
the purpose of the  
notice, or as the  
law demands.  
Thank you.**

do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/20/2016.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE  
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Anne M Geoffrion, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: March 23, 2016  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
3/31/16

## Pope Francis High School placement test April 9

**CHICOPEE** — Pope Francis High School announced that the next placement test for prospective ninth grade students interested in attending the new Catholic high school in September will be held Saturday, April 9, at 8 a.m. The test will take place at Holyoke Catholic High School, 134 Springfield St., Chicopee.

The merged high school will open in 2016-17 on the site of Holyoke Catholic, while a new facility is being built on the former site of Cathedral High School in Springfield.

“Building on the success of our first two placement tests, we have decided to schedule a third for new applicants and those students who are still completing the application process for enrollment in the Class of 2020,” said Director of Admissions Ann Rivers. “Anyone who is interested in becoming a student at Pope Francis High School in the fall who has not already taken the placement test is invited to join us on Saturday, April 9.”

For more information about the placement test, contact Rivers at 413-331-2480, ext. 1132, or email [arivers@popefrancishigh.org](mailto:arivers@popefrancishigh.org). To learn more about Pope Francis High School, visit [popefrancishigh.org](http://popefrancishigh.org).

## PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email [mballway@turley.com](mailto:mballway@turley.com).

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FROM THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

# Benefits of reading series books

You might have noticed that we have made some changes in the Children's Room at the Agawam Public Library. We are making these changes in order to make browsing and finding specific books easier. One such change is happening in our Popular Series section. In this section, we house many of our most popular series books, and we have been adding to it every day.

Why read series books? One of the reasons is that once kids read the first book in the series and like it, there are instantly more books from the rest of the series that they'll want to read. Another reason is that it is easier to develop more complex characters and plots which help capture kids' attention and interest and make them want to read more.



Pamela Weingart

type involves sequential books with connecting plots that happen chronologically. These types of books are meant to be read in order beginning from book one. The second type, on the other hand, does not involve sequential plots. The characters and setting might be the same in all the books, but each book can be read independently and in any order.

As always, if you'd like help finding something, please don't hesitate to ask us. We are here to help you. Feel free to check our website, [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org), call 413-789-1550, ext. 3, or email [pweingart@agawamlibrary.org](mailto:pweingart@agawamlibrary.org). I hope to see you soon at the library.

*Pamela Weingart is the youth services librarian at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam.*

## Gearing up for summer reading at the library

The Agawam Public Library will once again offer summer reading programs for people of all ages this coming summer. Last year, over 873 people in grade 12 and younger participated in the summer reading programs. The library hopes to increase that number this year. The programs will run June 24 through Aug. 5.

As part of efforts to draw families to the library, special prizes will be offered throughout the summer. Donations of new, unused items that can be used as prizes for children birth through grade 12 are currently being accepted. Some sample donations are gift cards to a local business, new unopened toys or games, or monetary donations that will be spent at the library's discretion during this program.

Reading throughout the summer helps young people retain skills learned during the school year. The benefits to readers in a summer reading program include encouragement that reading becomes a lifelong habit, reluctant readers can be drawn in by the activities, reading over the summer helps children keep their skills up, the program can generate interest in the library and books, and it being summer, the program can just be good fun and provide an opportunity for family time.

For more information on the summer reading program or to schedule a pick-up of a donation, call 413-789-1550, ext. 3, or email [pweingart@agawamlibrary.org](mailto:pweingart@agawamlibrary.org).

## Registration being accepted for summer camp

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Boys and Girls Club of West Springfield's summer camp program this year will offer nine weeks of camp from June 20 to Aug. 19 for children ages 6-13. Six year olds must have completed kindergarten.

Camp weeks run Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and include a wide variety of activities, including such recreational swimming, arts and crafts, gym time, group games, science, computers, games room, outdoor play, field trips, special events and more. Each camp week has a theme so no day or week is ever the same.

Registrations before Friday, June 3, will qualify for an early bird rate of \$140 per week, per child. All registrations after June 3 will be \$155 per week, per child. Camp fees include all special events and field trips, daily breakfast, lunch, and a camper T-shirt. Family discounts are available and the club accepts New England Farm Workers Vouchers.

Registration will be accepted at the club, 615 Main St., West Springfield, from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Applications and camp guides can be downloaded at [www.wsbgclub.org](http://www.wsbgclub.org). Space per week is limited. For more information about the Summer Camp Program, contact Camp Director Priscilla Reyes at 413-736.1831 or email [pr-eyes@wsbgclub.com](mailto:pr-eyes@wsbgclub.com).

## Open slide



Ryan Chumura, 2, of Agawam, is all smiles as he slides down a Buttery Brook Park slide in South Hadley on March 26 after the park's annual Easter egg hunt and hat parade. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY KRISTIN WILL

## Poetry contest open to area students

The Agawam Public Library will host a Student Poetry Contest beginning April 1. Students in grades 1 through 12 are eligible to submit up to two poems. Submissions will be taken at the library at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, Friday through Saturday, April 1-30. Poems must meet contest guidelines. Guidelines are available at the library and on the website, [agawamlibrary.org/children](http://agawamlibrary.org/children).

Poems will be judged based on spelling, grammar, style and presentation, impact, and originality. Contest winners will be announced May 14. All entries become the property of the Agawam Public Library. For more information visit [agawamlibrary.org/children](http://agawamlibrary.org/children), or call 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

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# WEDDING AND EVENT PLANNER



Photos by Karen Geaghan Photography

## BANQUET FACILITIES

**Chandlers at Yankee Candle** – Voted the most romantic restaurant and best wine list in the valley for 10 years. Voted official best family restaurant of Massachusetts. South Deerfield, MA. 413-665-1277 or log onto [chandlersyankeecandle.com](http://chandlersyankeecandle.com).

**The Hotel Northampton** – Pioneer Valley's only true Grand Ballroom, luxurious guestrooms, two restaurants, award-winning food, on-site parking, steps from unique shops and galleries. 413-587-8105. [www.HotelNorthampton.com](http://www.HotelNorthampton.com).

**Look Park Garden House** – Gazebo, Pine Theater and Sanctuary for wedding receptions and ceremonies, meetings, banquets and events for up to 170 people. 300 North Main Street, Rt. 9, Florence, MA. 413-584-2220. [www.lookpark.org](http://www.lookpark.org).

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Geraldine Schilling-Nordal stands with Michael Eagan, a former student of hers and organizer of the event.

# Irish concert brings in full house

The West Springfield Senior Center hosted “Tony Kenny’s Irish Celebration” Tuesday, March 15, at Chez Josef in Agawam. Kenny is one of Ireland’s most beloved artists. Having sung in countless musical productions, he starred in the world famous Jury’s Irish Cabaret for more than 20 years and has won many awards over the course of decades.

Thirteen busloads of people attended, many that traveled from out of state as well as those attending with the St. John’s Travelers from Agawam and the West Springfield Senior Center.

This event was organized by Michael Eagan, a member of the St. John’s Travelers, and included a luncheon and entertainment by the Dublin City Step Dancers, the Dublin Trinity Band and a comedian.



Reidar Nordal with Tony Kenny. SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY GERALDINE SCHILLING-NORDAL



Betsy and Stanley Ciempa of Agawam were in the audience at Tony Kenny’s Irish Celebration on March 15.



Joan Wright and Patricia Jenks.



From left, Ed Modzelewski and Bill Walsh.



Jean Connor, Jerry Connor and Andy Whalen.



Mary Rourke, center, is pictured with her son, who traveled from Texas, and her daughter, Betty Cheslawski.



Gloria Kerr and Nancy Modzelewski, standing, and Rosalie Walsh.



# SPORTS

## BASKETBALL

# Gray defeats Black in D1 senior all-star game

By Nate Rosenthal

*Turley Publications Sports Correspondent*

SPRINGFIELD – Offense was on showcase last Friday night in the 2016 Western Massachusetts Division I Senior High School All-Star Game held last Friday night at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame’s Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams.

The Gray team defeated the Black team in the Division I contest 109-84, with several local high school talents enjoying one more game before calling it a season.

Chicopee was well represented with eight players in this division. From Chicopee High, it was Jake Midura, Chevon Cote and Dario Zamboni; from Comp, it was Eric Perez, Bruce Carey and Steve Velasquez; from Pope Francis, it was Brian Callahan and Anthony Reynolds.

Joe Moccio was on the winning side of the game, representing Agawam, a quarterfinalist team this year. He scored four points on back to back baskets for the Gray team as they pulled away in the first half.

Pope Francis was represented by Anthony Reynolds and Brian



All-Star | page 15

The Division 1 All-Star Gray team. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## FIELD READY FOR SPRING SEASON

# Borgatti Field receives improvements, new mural

By Gregory A. Scibelli

*gscibelli@turley.com*

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School softball team, winners of the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Championship in three of their last four seasons, will call Borgatti Field home this spring.

The Brownies will be greeted with a friendly mural and brand new backstops as Community Preservation Act funds were used to make big improvements to the park.

In addition, soon-to-be Eagle Scout Joseph Barber created a mural on the wall of the storage and restroom building which faces patrons of the park as they pull into the parking lot.

Aldo Mancini, a member of the Veterans Committee in town and the commissioner of the Agawam Men’s Softball League, organized a short celebration of the improvements made to the softball field, and said his group of teams are looking forward to using the fields and also hopes the improvements will make the park a destination for families in town.

“The CPA has been generous and put a lot of money into the park,” said Mancini. “And through league fees, the softball league has also put a lot of money into the park.”

Almost \$50,000 between the



Boy Scout Joseph Barber stands next to a mural he created at Borgatti Field. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

CPA and the softball league has led to improvements to the two softball fields with brand new backstops and infield fencing, an improved storage facility with Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant restrooms, and soon,

new pickle ball courts will be completed.

Agawam Recreation Director Christopher Sparks said the town has worked hard to make im-

BORGATTI | page 15

## BASKETBALL SENIOR STARS SHINE

# White tops Black in fun exhibition

By Dave Forbes

*Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer*

SPRINGFIELD – The lights shone brightly on the top high school girls basketball seniors from Western Massachusetts for one last time at the Senior All-Star Game held on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Basketball Hall of Fame on Friday night.

This exhibition contest, which was close throughout, saw the White squad pull out a 71-64 victory over the Black team.

Monson’s Miranda Couture, who finished her high school career with over 100 3-pointers made, showed off her impressive range in this contest as she hit a couple of 3-pointers during the game, including one where she was several steps behind the line. She also came up with several nice defensive plays.

Chicopee Comp’s Molly Willette also proved to be one of the sharp shooters on the night as she knocked down three 3-pointers and finished with a team-high 14 points. Fellow Colt Alyssa Stefanelli also made a couple of nice plays on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball.

Meghan D’Amours and Christie Mirski, both of Agawam, had solid contributions on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball for the White squad, as did Mackenzie Pratt, of Holyoke.

Players included the White squad were Meghan D’Amours and Christie Mirski of Agawam;



Agawam’s Christie Mirski looks for a teammate to pass the ball to. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Jamie Staples and Jada Glasgow of Amherst; Sharon Robinson, of Central; Molly Willette and Alyssa Steffanelli of Chicopee Comp; Mackenzie Pratt, of Holyoke; Alexa Morin of Westfield; and Rudi Spano of West Springfield. Play-

EXHIBITION | page 15



# Sports



Joe Moccio takes a three-point jumper.

**ALL-STAR ■ from page 14**

Callahan at the game. They scored five points apiece and each hit a three-pointer. Midura was a key player for the winning gray team scoring 27 points and sticking in some key threes. Cote, with four points, was a force on the boards. Zamboni could not play due to injury, but he was on the bench cheering his team on. Perez had 11 points for the Black team with some good moves inside and an early three. Carey scored eight and took down some big rebounds to keep the Black team in the game. Velasquez scored six, including a big three in the second half. It was five apiece for Reynolds and Callahan. Each had a basket and a three.

The Grays won this one 109-84. The



Senior Joe Moccio drives to the hoop. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

game was fairly close for the first six minutes, as the Blacks stayed within three to five points. An eight-point run opened it up and to double figures from 19-16 to 27-16 and the Grays never looked back. For the rest of the half, they maintained their double-digit lead, save for a short spurt by the Black team that got them as close as nine. By halftime, the margin was back to 14 points at 53-39. The Gray team in the first four minutes of the second half broke the 20-point mark at 63-43. Back came the Blacks, as they outscored the Grays, 10-2. With seven minutes to go, they got as close as 10, 69-59. But that would be as close as they would get. The Grays pulled away and with three minutes left, they were up by 23 points and would win by 25.



Members of the Borgatti family join Boy Scout Joseph Barber, Recreation Director Christopher Sparks, and Men's Softball Commissioner Aldo Mancini at Borgatti Field, where significant improvements have been made for the spring season. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

**BORGATTI ■ from page 14**

provements to parks whenever funds can be made available. He is looking forward to seeing the park used this year.

"The softball will be on the field during the spring and the field is in great shape and they will have a new backstop to have their games," said Sparks. "Then the teams in the softball league will get to use the fields throughout the summer and fall."

Sparks says the fields are in use about four or five days a week, so there is plenty of traffic coming through. The addition of working bathrooms should hopefully help patrons coming to the field to watch games. He also said the additional space in the storage part of the building will be helpful.

"We really did not have anything for a while to really store equipment here and

that was difficult," said Sparks.

The building is highlighted by Barber's mural.

For his Eagle Scout project, Barber painted a baseball diamond complete with players playing baseball on the diamond.

"I'm really happy with the way it came out and I think that it will be a great way to welcome people to the park," said Barber.

Soon, a small pavilion with two picnic tables will be paved to go along with the completed pickle ball courts. Sparks said the senior center will be given bathroom keys so they can bring senior center members to use the new courts.

*Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.*

## Wysocki commits



Caroline Wysocki of Agawam, and a senior at The Williston Northampton School, recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play Division 1 soccer at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, N.H. She is one of ten student athletes in Williston's 2016 class to sign letters of intent to play at the Division 1 level next fall. Wysocki is a four-year varsity player in soccer, basketball and lacrosse. She is a two-time team MVP for soccer, as well as a two-time all-state selection, and was once again selected to the prestigious Boston Globe NEPSAC Class A, B All Star Team. She is a member of the FC Stars of Mass. ECNL team coached by Jason Dewhurst. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO SUBMITTED

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Lungarini scores in win over Keene

WESTFIELD – Westfield State women's lacrosse player and Agawam resident Samantha Lungarini scored a goal with 11:51 left in the second half in a 11-8 win over Keene State on Tuesday, March 22.

## Summer brochure available online

AGAWAM – The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department summer brochure is now available online. It is available at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us).

## Local 2016 Boston Marathon runners

BOSTON – The 2016 Boston Marathon is set to take place on Monday, April 18. Share your Boston Marathon story with us by calling Sports Editor Dave Forbes at 413-283-8393 ext. 237 or send an email to [dforbes@turley.com](mailto:dforbes@turley.com).

Listed below are the local runners registered for the race.

NAME	AGE	TOWN
Michael Lescarbeau	45	Agawam
Kevin Pfau	56	Feeding Hills



Agawam's Meghan D'Amours is all smiles during the player introductions. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

**EXHIBITION ■ from page 14**

ers included on the Black team were: Emily Casella of Athol; Molly Moulton of Drury; Chelsea Moussette of Hampshire; Olivia Shapiro of Longmeadow; Miranda Couture of Monson; Ashley Higgins of Smith Academy; Lexi Gawron of South Hadley; Allie Hunt of Pittsfield; and Sadie Simons of Ware.

Harold Cote, of Agawam, was the coach of the Black squad, while Hampshire's Amy Cyr led the Black squad.

*Dave Forbes is a sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at [dforbes@turley.com](mailto:dforbes@turley.com) or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.*

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WINTER RECAP

Basketball teams rebound for solid winter season

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam winter sports teams saw a bit of a role reversal from last winter to this winter.

This year, it was the two basketball teams that had the most success while the hockey and wrestling teams took a step back into more rebuilding years. Here is a look back at the winter season for the Brownies.

Boys Basketball

The Brownies had a great year, going 14-6 in a year that coach Dave Federico described was still a rebuilding year. He had some senior talent, but was still growing his team into a contender.

The Brownies would start off really slow, but grew into an offensive power. The defense was good enough to start building wins, and before long, the Brownies went

from 1-3 to a tournament contender.

Agawam continued to get stronger, and ran the gauntlet of the crowded Division 1-heavy Suburban League. Agawam would get the better of teams like Chicopee Comp, Longmeadow, and Sabis as the season neared its end. For the first time in many year, the Brownies won the league with a 12-2 record.

Agawam’s season earned them the No. 6 seed in the Division I tournament. Agawam was tasked with No. 3 Amherst in the quarterfinals, and came up short. While the Brownies will lose some talented scorers, they will also return some great underclassmen talent that contributed a lot to this year’s success.

Girls Basketball

The Brownies have struggled for the past few years, but a senior-heavy starting lineup that played great defense finally helped

Agawam get over the hump. The Brownies won their first playoff game in years when they beat Sci-Tech in the first round.

Agawam would go on to play the No. 3 seed Holyoke Knights, a powerful offensive opponent. Agawam was able to hang in for a half, but the Knights pulled away for a 10-point win in the quarterfinals.

The Brownies would send two, Christie Mirski and Meghan D’Amours to the all-star game. The Brownies will have some rebuilding to do with their starting lineup next season, but their much of their underclassmen bench saw significant playing team this season, hopefully helping with the transition.

Wrestling

The Brownies only sent one wrestler to the Western Mass. finals this season and sent just a few to the state championship. After years of six or more wrestlers ranking

high in the tournament, coach Armando Ramos focused much of his season developing younger wrestlers this year.

Hockey

The hockey team took a step back after making it all the way to the state finals in Division 3 last year. After graduating most of its team last year, the Brownies struggled in the Berry Division, and won just four games all season.

Individual Accomplishments

- Agawam indoor track member Caroline Hitchcock captured the Division III state championship in the high jump with a personal record of 5 feet, 4 inches.
- Girls Skier Jill Scherpa won the State Championship for Giant Slalom at 57.70 seconds and came in fourth for Slalom at Wachusett Mountain on Feb. 23.

Agawam 2016 spring varsity schedule

Baseball (all home games at Shea Field)

Wednesday, April 6	Home	Holyoke	4:15 p.m.
Friday, April 8	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12	Home	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 14	Away	Holyoke	4:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	Away	Westfield (at Bullens Field)	4 p.m.
Friday, April 22	Away	Chicopee (at Szot Park)	12 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 28	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Monday, May 2	Away	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4	Away	Pope Francis (at Forest Park)	4 p.m.
Saturday, May 7	Home	Minnechaug	3 p.m.
Tuesday, May 10	Away	Central	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 12	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Monday, May 16	Home	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 18	Away	Pittsfield (at Clapp Field)	4:15 p.m.
Friday, May 20	Away	Longmeadow (at Russell Field)	4 p.m.
Monday, May 23	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 24	Away	Chicopee Comp (at Dulchinos Field)	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 26	Away	Amherst	7 p.m.

Boys Lacrosse (all home games at School Street Park)

Thursday, March 31	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 2	Away	Longmeadow (at Western New England University)	7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 9	Away	Mt. Greylock	1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Friday, April 15	Home	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 16	Away	Hopkinton (at Fruit Street Turf)	4 p.m.
Monday, April 18	Away	East Longmeadow	1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20	Home	Doherty	12 p.m.
Saturday, April 23	Versus	Peabody (at UMass-Amherst)	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, April 26	Home	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4	Away	Northampton (at David Wright Stadium)	6 p.m.
Friday, May 6	Away	South Hadley (at Michael E. Smith Middle School)	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 10	Away	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Thursday, May 12	Home	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Saturday, May 14	Away	Tantasqua	12 p.m.
Thursday, May 19	Away	Pope Francis (at Spec Pond)	4 p.m.
Monday, May 23	Home	Northampton	4 p.m.

Girls Lacrosse (all home games at School Street Park)

Friday, April 1	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Monday, April 4	Away	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, April 8	Home	Minnechaug	5:30 p.m.
Monday, April 11	Away	South Hadley (at Town Farm Fields)	4 p.m.
Friday, April 15	Away	Longmeadow (at Russell Field)	4 p.m.
Monday, April 25	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 28	Home	Northampton	6 p.m.
Monday, May 2	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 5	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Friday, May 6	Home	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Monday, May 9	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 12	Away	Northampton (at David Wright Stadium)	6 p.m.
Saturday, May 14	Home	Tantasqua	12 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17	Away	Westfield	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 19	Home	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 24	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.

Softball (all home games at Borgatti Field)

Tuesday, April 5	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 7	Away	Amherst	4 p.m.
Monday, April 11	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 13	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Monday, April 18	Home	Pittsfield	3 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	Away	Chicopee Comp	12 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	Away	Hampshire	4 p.m.
Monday, April 25	Home	Holyoke	4:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 27	Home	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3	Away	Northampton (at Northampton Softball Field)	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 5	Away	Chicopee (at Szot Park)	7 p.m.
Monday, May 9	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 11	Home	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, May 13	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Monday, May 16	Away	Palmer	4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17	Home	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 19	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 23	Away	Westfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 25	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.
Friday, May 27	Away	West Springfield (at Mittineague Park)	4 p.m.

Boys Tennis

Tuesday, April 5	Away	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Monday, April 11	Away	Renaissance (at Blunt Park)	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 13	Away	South Hadley (at Mt. Holyoke College)	4 p.m.
Friday, April 15	Away	Northampton (at JFK Middle School)	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	Away	Chicopee (at Szot Park)	4 p.m.
Monday, April 25	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 27	Away	Longmeadow (at Blinn Tennis Courts)	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3	Away	South Hadley (at Mt. Holyoke College)	4 p.m.
Monday, May 9	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 11	Away	Amherst	4 p.m.
Friday, May 13	Away	Ludlow	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 19	Away	Chicopee (at Szot Park)	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 25	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.

Girls Tennis

Monday, April 4	Away	Central	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6	Away	Northampton (at JFK Middle School)	4 p.m.
Friday, April 8	Away	Longmeadow (at Blinn Courts)	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12	Away	Pope Francis (at Forest Park)	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 14	Away	Sabis	4 p.m.
Monday, April 18	Away	South Hadley (at Mt. Holyoke College)	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20	Away	Amherst	4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26	Away	Westfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 28	Away	Holyoke	4 p.m.
Monday, May 2	Away	Pope Francis (at Forest Park)	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4	Away	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Friday, May 6	Away	Chicopee (at Szot Park)	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 10	Away	Northampton (at JFK Middle School)	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 12	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Friday, May 13	Away	Ludlow	5:30 p.m.
Monday, May 16	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Friday, May 20	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 24	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Thursday, May 26	Away	South Hadley (at Mt. Holyoke College)	4 p.m.

Boys Track and Field

Tuesday, April 5	Away	Holyoke	4 p.m.
Monday, April 18	Away	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Saturday, April 23	Home	Westfield (at Westfield State University)	8 a.m.
Tuesday, April 26	Away	Central	4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 10	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.

Girls Track and Field

Friday, April 1	Away	Amherst	4 p.m.
Monday, April 4	Away	Northampton	4 p.m.
Monday, April 11	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	Away	Southwick	4 p.m.
Monday, May 2	Away	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Monday, May 16	Away	Longmeadow	4:30 p.m.

Boys Volleyball

Monday, April 4	Home	Westfield	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 7	Away	Ludlow	5 p.m.
Friday, April 8	Home	Wilbraham & Monson Academy	4:30 p.m.
Monday, April 11	Home	West Springfield	5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 13	Away	Minnechaug	5 p.m.
Friday, April 15	Home	Chicopee Comp	5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	Away	Athol	5 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	Home	Dean Tech	1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26	Home	Holyoke	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 27	Away	East Longmeadow	5 p.m.
Monday, May 2	Away	Westfield	6:15 p.m.
Thursday, May 5	Home	Ludlow	6 p.m.
Monday, May 9	Away	Central	5 p.m.
Wednesday, May 11	Home	Putnam	5 p.m.
Saturday, May 14	Home	Hollis-Brookline	12 p.m.
Monday, May 16	Away	West Springfield	6 p.m.
Wednesday, May 18	Home	Minnechaug	5 p.m.
Friday, May 20	Away	Chicopee Comp	6 p.m.
Monday, May 23	Away	Sci-Tech	5 p.m.



# Agawam High School athletics to induct first Hall of Fame class

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Athletic Department is proud and excited to announce the induction of the inaugural class of The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame. AHS has a long and proud history which encompasses many sports.

The AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee was formed earlier this year to recognize and honor those who have made a significant athletic contribution to Agawam High School. The Hall of Fame Committee is looking forward to a community effort to help make the A.H.S. Athletic Hall of Fame a tribute to the athletes, coaches, teams and contributors who have given so much to the high school and to the Town of Agawam through sport. The presentation of the first Hall of Fame class will be held at the Agawam High School on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016. Details will follow.

Effective immediately, The Agawam High Athletic Hall of Fame Committee will be accepting completed nomination packets for athletes, teams and contributors who have distinguished themselves in athletics at Agawam High School as well as in their college and professional lives.

Nomination form directions must be followed exactly with all necessary information included. Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted, so please be as accurate and complete as possible. Nomination forms are due on or before April 1, 2016, to be considered for induction into the AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2016.

Nomination packets are available at the Agawam High School Athletic Department Office and on line at: [http://www.agawampublicschools.org/pages/Agawam\\_PS/Athletics/Athletics](http://www.agawampublicschools.org/pages/Agawam_PS/Athletics/Athletics).

## AAA Falcons Girls Softball signups

REGION - Looking for a few more players from the Springfield/Belchertown/Granby/Chicopee area for 14 and Under team playing in NEYSA Girls Fast Pitch Softball League.

Team practices and plays home games at Greenleaf Park Springfield.

Also eligible if 15th birthday is in 2016.

Please contact softballcoachdpw@gmail.com or call 413-323-5887.

## GOLF CALENDAR

### Shriners Golf Tournament set for June 4

CHICOPEE - The second annual Shriners Hospital for Children Golf Tournament is set for June 4 at Chicopee Country Club.

The tournament begins with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$100 per person. Cost includes cart, lunch and steak dinner.

Prizes for hole in one, closest to the pin on par 3 and longest drive.

The cost to sponsor a hole is \$75, which includes company logo and name.

For more information, please contact Jim Adams at 413-627-1122 or Sue Adams at 413-627-1803.

Foursomes are going fast.

### Inaugural Cory J. Gawacki Foundation Tournament

CHICOPEE - The inaugural Cory J. Garwacki Foundation Live to Give Tournament will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28 at Chicopee Country Club.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12 p.m.

Dinner will be held following the tournament.

The cost is \$125 per person or \$500 for a foursome.

There are four levels of sponsorship available as well: Eagle (\$2,000), Birdie (\$1,500), Tee Gift (\$1,750) and Tee (\$100).

Please make checks payable to: Cory J. Gawricki Foundation.

Send registration to Theresa Scully, P.O. Box 484, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

Send us your golf tournament information. Contact Sports Editor Dave Forbes at 413-283-8393 ext. 237 or send an e-mail to [dforbes@turley.com](mailto:dforbes@turley.com).



From left to right: Bill Roberts, Mark Bradley, Keegan Bradley, Tony Roberto, Pat Bradley and Ron Waite. Roberts, Roberto and Waite won the National Car Rental PGA Pro-Am Series tournament on Aug. 26, 2015, at Glastonbury Hills Country Club in Glastonbury, Conn. Their team was randomly selected as the winners from more than 2,000 teams who participated in the Pro-Am Series nationwide. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Roberts plays round with Bradley family

REGION - Three local golfers played the golf round of a lifetime this Tuesday, Feb. 9, with Keegan Bradley, winner of the 2011 PGA Championship; his father, PGA Professional Mark Bradley; and his aunt, LPGA Hall of Famer Pat Bradley, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

William Roberts, of Ludlow, was the grand-prize winner of the 2015 National Car Rental Emerald Club Sweepstakes. Roberts and his two National Car Rental PGA Pro-Am Series teammates - Anthony Roberto, of South Windsor, Conn., who is a PGA Pro at Agawam Municipal Golf Course in Feeding Hills, and Ronald Waite, of Feeding Hills, traveled to Florida to participate in a VIP golf experience with the Bradleys.

Roberts, Roberto and Waite won the National Car Rental PGA Pro-Am Series tournament on Aug. 26, 2015, at Glastonbury Hills Country Club in Glastonbury, Conn. Their team was randomly selected as the winners from more than 2,000 teams who participated in the Pro-Am Series nationwide.

The 2015 National Car Rental PGA Pro-Am Series was held from March to early December, linking together over 90 tournaments across the 41 PGA of America sections nationwide. The PGA of America and National Car Rental created the Series to help further the PGA's mission to grow interest and participation in the game of golf at the grassroots level. More than 10,000 amateur golfers participated in last year's Pro-Am Series. Keegan, Mark and Pat Bradley serve as ambassadors for the Series.

The grand-prize VIP golf experience included: a four-day/three-night trip to West Palm Beach, Fla.; round-trip coach class air transportation and hotel accommodations; a \$250 gift card for car rental for each team member; a VIP golf experience, including lunch and one round of golf with Keegan, Pat and Mark Bradley; and two additional rounds of golf at a nearby golf course.

# Mutiny sign eight players for summer season

SPRINGFIELD - The New England Mutiny embark on a new journey this summer, as they are a founding member of the recently-established pro-am United Women's Soccer (UWS) league. The Mutiny will have a core of veterans to rely upon this season, as seven returnees (plus one newcomer) highlight the first group of signings for their 2016 season in the six-team UWS East.

Midfielder Charlie Branch, defender Meghan Cunningham, forward/defender Liana Hinds, forward/midfielder Andrea Plucenik, midfielder Stephanie Santos, defenders Allyson and Chantelle Swaby and defender Claire Walsh will don the New England colors in the team's inaugural campaign in the new national league. The eight players pair both grit and guile and are being looked upon to form the backbone of the Mutiny.

"This group of signings highlights our midfield and defense for our first season in UWS," said Mutiny team owner Joe Ferrara Jr. "Its going to be a battle each game and we think this group can help form a strong foundation for our team."

Branch (Norwich, England) completed her collegiate career last fall for the Central Connecticut Blue Devils, and joined New England teammates Hinds, Plucenik and Santos as a selection to this past December's NEWISA Senior Bowl. She concluded her two-year stint at CCSU as a 2015 All-ECAC Second Team and All-NEC First Team selection.

Cunningham (Simsbury, Conn.) will remarkably suit up for her ninth-year season for the Mutiny, the second longest tenure in team history behind local legend Jenny Maurer. The former University of Connecticut star played in seven matches (six starts) last summer for the Mutiny, who won the Power 5 Division and went 8-2 on the season.

Hinds (Hartford, Conn.) recently was a part of the Trinidad & Tobago Women's National Team who qualified for the semifinals of the CONCACAF Olympic Qualifying Tournament in February, making three appearances in four matches. Liana finished her UConn career by appearing in all 23 games last fall, assisting on the game-

winning goal against Notre Dame in the 2nd Round of the NCAA tournament.

Plucenik (Brooklyn, Conn.) led New England in assists last summer (five), and is returning for her fifth season in a Mutiny uniform. Andrea saw action in all 23 games her senior season for UConn last fall, earning 16 starts (four goals, four assists). She was named to the American Athletic Conference Honor Roll (Oct. 12) for her back-to-back game-winning goals vs. East Carolina and Cincinnati.

Santos (Naugatuck, Conn.) was named to the NEWISA All-New England Team and the America East First Team last fall in her final season at the University Of Hartford. In 2013, she was named the AE Co-Midfielder of the Year as well as to the AE First Team, garnering NSCAA & NEWISA regional honors as well. In 2014, Stephanie was selected to the Portugal Women's National Team for the Algarve Cup.

Allyson Swaby (West Hartford, Conn.) played in 17 matches (14 starts) last fall for the Boston College Eagles as a sophomore defender. She had a remarkable 2015 as she was selected to both the U.S. U-20 Women's National Team while also earning a call-up from the senior Jamaican Women's side as well. In 2014, Allyson was an All-ACC Rookie Team, All-ACC Third Team and NSCAA All-Southeast Region Third Team honoree.

Her younger sister and Mutiny newcomer Chantelle will make it a family affair this summer, as the 5-11 defender prepares for her freshman season this fall for Rutgers University as part of their top-ranked recruiting class. She was selected to the NSCAA All-Region I Team in 2014 & 2015 and tabbed to the the Top XI at both the ECNL Nike National Camp and All-America game in 2015.

Walsh (Kilbride, Ireland) returns to the Mutiny after a stellar 2015 season, where she made seven appearances (six starts). She completed her four-year career at CCSU alongside Branch last fall, starting 15 of the 17 matches she appeared in while scoring three goals and two assists. The 2012 All-NEC Rookie Team member was named the FAI U-16 Player of the Year in 2010.

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# AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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### Making memories



Above, Leti Scarpino works with her son, Connor, 5, to create a "memory journal" during a monthly craft program sponsored by the Agawam Family and Community Program at the library on Tuesday. More photos on page 16. TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

At right, Sydney Seo, 9, puts some photos in her journal.

### WALNUT STREET EXT.

#### Downtown plan now has rotary

Businesses objected to proposed pedestrian mall, parkland

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com



Planners hope businesses on Walnut Street Extension will agree to a beautification plan that keeps cars on the street but moves some parking.

Merchandise in the neighborhood near the corner of Springfield and Southfield streets in Agawam, which is being targeted for redevelopment as a "walkable downtown," recently rejected a town Planning and Community Development Department proposal that would have turned the street into a park and pedestrian promenade. Under the new plan to be presented at a property owners' meeting this month, the street remains open, but parking spaces will be sacrificed to give pedestrians more room. The plan also envisions turning the intersection of Walnut Street Extension and Ramoth Circle into a roundabout, a kind of rotary.

Whether the changes — particularly the shift of some parking spaces away from the road —

side — meet with approval from the businesses remains to be seen.

"There was some concern among the business owners that have older clientele," said Planning and Community Development Director Marc Strang. "They are concerned those folks may have a longer walk to access some of the businesses. Several of the businesses there have parking spaces."

He said nine years have really flown by and he is so happy to be

### PARANORMAL SOCIETY

#### Group finds spirits at Smith House

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The Agawam Paranormal Society has brought its latest batch of investigations to the historic Thomas Smith House.

Last Friday night, Agawam Paranormal founder Bob Goff presented "Who Goes There?" to a group of approximately 120 paranormal enthusiasts at the Agawam Senior Center.

Goff, who did the presentation for the Agawam Cultural Council free of charge, talked about starting his ninth year of paranormal investigations, and gave an overview of his crew and some details on their process for investigations.

Goff started out nine years ago using the investigation as simply a family activity.

"It was just something we really wanted to do together," said Goff. "We watched the investigation on television as a family and I thought it was something we could go out and do a few times a year."

He said nine years have really flown by and he is so happy to be

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# Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com), fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

### Friday, April 1

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St., All blood types needed. To make an appointment, download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 800-733-2767.

THE ARTISTS AT THE CROSSROADS Spring Art Show and Sale at the Westfield Creative Arts Gallery, 105 Elm St., 6 to 9 p.m. Refreshments and beverages will be served.

NORTH AMERICAN ALPACA SHOW in the Mallary Complex on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow. Free admission.

'CIAO, PROFESSORE!' BY LINA WERTMULLER at the Italian Cultural Center of Western Mass., 56 Margaret St., Springfield, as part of its "Friday Night at the Italian Cinema" series. Doors open at 6 p.m., followed by the movie at 6:30 p.m. Free for ICC members; \$5 donation for non-members.

### Sunday, April 3

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Six Flags New England's Human Resources Center, 1756 Main St., Agawam. All blood types needed. To make an appointment, download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 800-733-2767.

SPRINGFIELD NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR in the Young Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield today from 1 to 4 p.m., tomorrow from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Free admission.

### Monday, April 4

AUTHORTALK WITH JACQUELINE LYNCH, at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. "Beside the Still Waters" is based the displacement of four towns in Western Mass. for the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir. To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org). The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

THE ALLEN BIRD CLUB will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle. Featured speaker will be Diane Benson Davis, the author of "Eagle One: Raising Bald Eagles — A Wildlife." Open to the public. For more information, visit [www.allenbird-club.org](http://www.allenbird-club.org).

### Thursday, April 7

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "The English Garden: Perfection on Earth,"

featuring Curt DiCamillo, historian, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

### Friday, April 8

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will host Rick Spencer, internationally recognized folk singer, songwriter, and historian best known for his series of theme-based historical music programs, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library as part of the its popular Applause Series. It is free and open to the public.

SPRING FLING DOG SHOW & OBEDIENCE TRIAL in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission.

### Saturday, April 9

RENT-A-SPACE TAG SALE sponsored by the West Springfield Fish and Game Club, 329 Garden St., Feeding Hills. For more information, contact Liz at 860-798-1013, Randy at 413-846-3433, or the club at 413-786-5925.

THE SUFFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, 100 N. Main St., Suffield, will host its "Handbell Choir & Friends" concert at 3 p.m. An opportunity to donate to a free will offering to support the Music Ministry will be available. For more information, contact the church office at 860-668-1661, or email [office@secondbaptistsuffield.org](mailto:office@secondbaptistsuffield.org).

TROY KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission.

### Sunday, April 10

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic will be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

TRAP FALLS KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

### Tuesday, April 12

"TRASH TALKIN' WITH NANCY (and Helga) — Community Based Solutions to Reducing Our Trash Footprint and Keeping Our Town Clean" at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org).

AGAWAM ADDICTION FORUM at the Roberta G. Doring School Auditorium, 68 Main St., Agawam. Open house from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by the forum from 7 to 9 p.m. will include specialists, professionals and speakers. Featured guests will include Tracy Wilkie of the Shane Foundation and Kristin Trauschke of Agawam Against Addiction. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/groups/AgawamAgainstAddiction](http://Facebook.com/groups/AgawamAgainstAddiction).

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

### Thursday, April 14

J. POLEP DISTRIBUTION SERVICES TRADE SHOW in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. No charge.

THE LIFE RAFT DEBATE, an opportunity to hear STCC professors and deans debate the merits of their particular disciplines, is open to the public at 9:30 a.m. at Scibelli Hall at STCC, One Armory Square, Springfield. It is part of the school's free Ovations series. For more information, call 413-755-4233 or email [pcodonoghue@stcc.edu](mailto:pcodonoghue@stcc.edu).

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "All Over England," featuring Amy S. Dane, global traveler, lecturer and photographer, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

### Friday, April 15

NORTHEAST REINING HORSE SHOW in the Coliseum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Free admission.

### Saturday, April 16

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHICKEN PIE SUPPER at 5:30 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children; at the door, \$15. To purchase tickets, call 413-786-7111. The church is at 745 Main St., Agawam.

### Sunday, April 17

MAWAGA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB LUNKER TROUT DERBY at 377 Adams St., Agawam. A full breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. Lunch also available. Fishing from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No license required. \$15 donation requested. All are welcome. For more information, call 413-789-0934 or 413-265-0851.

### Tuesday, April 19

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. New members welcome.

### Wednesday, April 20

UPHA-14 SPRING PREMIER HORSE SHOW in the Coliseum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield today through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m. Free admission.

### Friday, April 22

NEW ENGLAND SPRING CLASSIC DOG SHOWS today through Sunday in Mallary East and Mallary West on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free admission.

### Saturday, April 23

HOLISTIC VENDOR FAIR at the Feeding Hills Wellness Center, 567 Springfield St., Feeding Hills today and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free to the public. For more information, contact the Feeding Hills Wellness Center at 413-244-4660 or visit [fh-wellness.com](http://fh-wellness.com).

SPRINGFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY annual photography workshop at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This free conference is open to the public. Those planning to attend the event should email Kevin Fay at [fay44@comcast.net](mailto:fay44@comcast.net). Participants should bring their cameras, lenses, flash and camera manuals.

### Sunday, April 24

THE AGAWAM HISTORICAL AND FIREHOUSE MUSEUM at 35 Elm St., Agawam, will open for the season from 1 to 4 p.m. and will feature a special exhibit

celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Eastern States Exhibition. For more information, visit [www.agawam-historicalassoc.webs.com](http://www.agawam-historicalassoc.webs.com) or follow it on Facebook.

FLUTIST TIMOTHY MACRI will open the spring and summer concert series at Second Baptist Church, 100 N. Main St., Suffield with a performance at 3 p.m.

### Thursday, April 28

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "All About Emus and Why Would a Museum Hath Their Eggs," featuring Elizabeth Thwing, nonfiction writer for children, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

### Saturday, May 14

WESTFIELD GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE at 28 Court St. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Perennials, annuals and indoor plants featured at reasonable prices, along with "garden art," flower baskets, ornaments and accessories. A raffle of gift baskets will be included in the day's activities.

### Friday, May 20

FRIENDS OF THE AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE from 2-5 p.m., \$3 for the public, free for Friends members; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at no charge for all. All proceeds to benefit library programs.

### ONGOING

THE UPSTAIRS GALLERY AND GLASS CASES at the Agawam Public Library contain 68 photos that were juried into the Friends of the Agawam Public Library Sixth Open Juried Photography Show. The show will run to Feb. 26. Brochures are available in the gallery area at the library that describe the photographs.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at [rosemarysandlin@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarysandlin@gmail.com)

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needleworkers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at [www.survivorjourneys.org](http://www.survivorjourneys.org).

## Humason office hours in town next week

State Sen. Don Humason will host public office hours in several towns, including Agawam, Southwick and Westfield, in April.

Humason or a member of his staff will be available in Agawam from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 4, in the Peirce Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. All are welcome to visit and share their thoughts or concerns on state matters.

Office hours in Southwick are 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, in the Community Room at the Southwick Public Library, 95 Feeding Hills Road. Office hours in Westfield are 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, in

the Elizabeth Reed Room at the Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm St.

Humason and staff are also available to meet with constituents at his district office, 64 Noble St. in Westfield. No appointment is necessary, but calling ahead is recommended. Humason's district office staff can be reached at 413-568-1366. Staff in his Boston office can be reached at 617-722-1415 for legislative matters. The senator's email is [Donald.Humason@MASenate.gov](mailto:Donald.Humason@MASenate.gov).

Humason, a Westfield Republican, represents Agawam and 10 other communities in the state Senate.

## Six Flags opens with teddy bear drive

Six Flags New England's opening day is Saturday, April 9, in time for spring break holidays in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

In celebration of Opening Day, the park is partnering with the Springfield Police Department in collecting new teddy bears of any size, April 9-24. The police will provide these bears as part of the healing process for children who are impacted by domestic violence calls.

On Opening Day the park will try to fill an police car with donated teddy bears. Kids will also be invited to interact with local law enforcement and have an opportunity to see an official police vehicle firsthand. Guests who donate a new teddy bear will receive \$20.16 off the park's admission price.

Admission is not required to donate to the teddy bear drive, which will take place outside the main gate at 1623 Main St., Agawam.

## Wellness Center to host holistic fair

The Feeding Hills Wellness Center, 567 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a Holistic Vendor Fair on Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event is free to the public. There will be 15 vendors in attendance

offering holistic services and displaying various natural items for sale.

For more information, contact the Feeding Hills Wellness Center at 413-244-4660 or visit [fh-wellness.com](http://fh-wellness.com).

## Agawam Senior Center

### Lunch Menu

**Monday, April 4:** Ravioli with meat sauce, garden salad, apples.  
**Tuesday, April 5:** Swiss burger with lettuce and tomato on a roll, coleslaw, birthday cake.  
**Wednesday, April 6:** Roast pork loin, roasted potatoes and carrots, diced pears.  
**Thursday, April 7:** Chicken cacciatore with peppers and onions, pasta and sauce, pudding.  
**Friday, April 8:** Tuna noodle casserole, spinach salad, Jell-O.

### Calendar of Events

**Monday, April 4:** 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., line dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.  
**Tuesday, April 5:** 9 a.m., exercise, knitting class,

sewing class; 10 a.m., chair exercise; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("Max"), ladies billiards; 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 6 p.m., beginner line dance, evening sewing, art class with Barbara Cohen.  
**Wednesday, April 6:** 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge, Chapter 2 banquet (no meeting); 1 p.m., Scrabble; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold; 6:30 p.m., Turnverein chorus.  
**Thursday, April 7:** 8:30 a.m., AARP tax assistance; 9 a.m., exercise; 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., pitch; 1:30 p.m., Melody Band practice; 4:15 p.m., Pilates; 6:30 p.m., evening pitch, evening line dancing.  
**Friday, April 8:** 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art class; 10 a.m., tai chi; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; 4 p.m., poker.



Buzzin' from Town to Town



# Classifieds

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## Tag Sale

**ANNUAL TAG SALE/FLEA MARKET** St. Thomas Apostle Parish Center, 1076 Thorndike St., Palmer. Saturday, April 2nd from 9am- 2pm. Lots of jewelry, collectibles, and misc. **283-6573**

**CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR** Animals is having a giant tag sale Fri. April 8, (8:30am-4pm) & Sat. April 9, (8:30am-1pm) at Wachogue Cong. Church, 80 Arvilla St., Springfield (corner of Roosevelt Ave. & Arvilla St. - 2 blocks from Sumner Ave.) Cat & dog food donation basket to help pets. If you have items to donate, bring them Thurs. April 7, 8:30am-3pm. **NO** clothes, shoes or large equip.

**TWO WEEKEND ESTATE SALE** April 1st, 2nd, 8th & 9th. 9am-4pm daily. 107 Carlton Street, Holyoke. Enormous quantity of merchandise over 2 weekends. Call Frank (413)539-1472.

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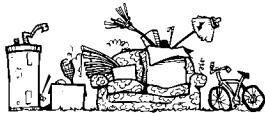


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# Classifieds

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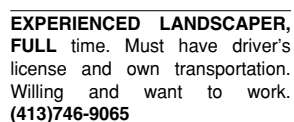


# Classifieds



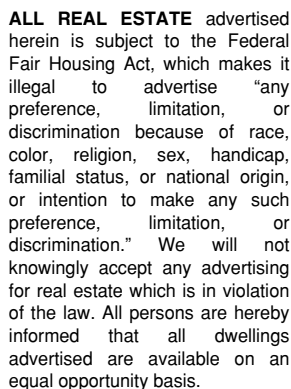
**Call us toll free at 1-800-824-6548**

## Commercial Rentals

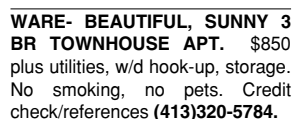


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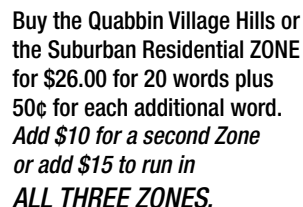
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:    ☐ MasterCard    ☐ VISA    ☐ Discover    ☐ Cash    ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**MECHANICAL ENGINEER - FASTENER APPLICATIONS** SBS located in Agawam, MA has an immediate opening for a Mechanical Engineer – Fastener Application position. Accredited Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering or a related field and experience with reviewing, understanding and interpreting blue prints, drawings, and specifications req'd; must have efficiency in AutoCAD, Pro/Engineer, SolidWorks, Matlab/Simulink, familiarity with materials, fasteners, and manufacturing methods, proficiency with 3D Mechanical Modeling and 2D mechanical drawings, strong GD&T skills, broad knowledge of materials applications, computer software experience using Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Access, excellent math and analytical skills and exceptional analytical and problem solving skills. Work environment req's a fast paced individual with attention to detail and thoroughness. Mail resume to James, 235 Bowles Rd, Agawam, MA 01001, jchivers@specialtybolt.com. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban ☐

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**OUR CLASSIFIEDS ARE ONLINE 24/7 AND REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



# Our Town

## Red Door Theatre celebrates 25th

Agawam's award-winning community and children's theater opened its Red Door in 1991. The past 25 years have seen thousands of children experience and participate in the joy of live theater. In addition, adults and youth have also had the opportunity to perform in musicals, comedies, variety shows and holiday happenings at the 120-seat theater at 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills.

Kit and Kaboodle is the nonprofit corporation that runs the theater year-round and has presented over 450 productions. Kit and Kaboodle is the umbrella organization for the various theatrical programs that are offered: Tiny Tales for ages 3-9, Stage Camps for ages 5-15, Teen Ensemble Theater for ages 13-25, and the Hilltop Players Family Theatre.

Lyle Pearsons and Marilene Allen, both of Agawam, are directors of the popular performance center, assisted by Megan Banks Pearsons of West Springfield and Jaime Pearsons of Westfield.

The theater has won several awards and was recently the recipient of a \$14,500 grant for technical improvements by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. The theater also received a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council for its project, "Teacher, the Annie Sullivan Story," which will be presented April 15-17 in celebration of the 150th anniversary of her birth.

To celebrate Shakespeare's 400th birthday, the directors plan to start Shakespeare On the Hill with a production outdoors of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in late June. The Red Door family is also busy preparing for their eight one-week summer camps which have over 200 children present full productions for the general paying public.

For more information, visit [reddoortheatre.com](http://reddoortheatre.com). For ticket reservations, call the box office at 413-789-2026.

### ENGAGEMENT



Andrew Goodreau and Christina Paquette. Submitted photo

## Paquette – Goodreau

Ms. Josphine Paquette of Agawam is happy to announce the engagement of her daughter, Christina Joanne, to Andrew Joseph Goodreau, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Goodreau of Ludlow.

The bride is the daughter of the late Richard Paquette. She is a graduate of Agawam High School and attended Holyoke Community College. She is currently employed as a corrections officer for the state of Connecticut. Andrew is a graduate of Ludlow High School and Anna Maria College in Paxton, where he received a bachelor's degree in fire science. He is a firefighter-paramedic with the town of Ludlow.

A September 2016 wedding is planned.

People of All Ages  
**Read Newspapers**

## Another look



Three-year-old Annabelle Clark couldn't wait until she got home on March 19 to tear open the candy-filled Lions Club Easter basket she won by picking up an Easter egg with a gold coin inside. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



Two-year-old Ayla Parrelli looks on as her older brothers Tony, left, and Braden open their Easter eggs in search of candy inside at the Lions Club's March 19 egg hunt at School Street Park. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



From left, McKenzie Roy, Dayne Gottier, Mahi Relaker, Bella Garcia, Julie Garcia and Lily Wojciechowski pose for a photo after the March 19 Easter egg hunt. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Cultural Council seeks new members

The Agawam Cultural Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

A great opportunity exists with the Agawam Cultural Council for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members. The Agawam Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

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